



Agawam Advertiser-News

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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

March 5, 1998

Team Teaching At Jr. High Goes Down Again...

School Committee Members Blast Teachers' Union Over Vote

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

School administration, parents, and the leadership of the teachers' union agree on one thing: all are disappointed that the concept of bringing the team teaching approach to the Junior High School failed to win the support of the teachers' union membership.

But, only the union leadership is defending the teachers' stance.

Shocked, angry, disillusioned, and disappointed, parents are vowing to press the teachers for an explanation of their actions while letting the School Committee know the direction they

want to see the schools taking.

Reaction from the School Committee runs the gamut from anger to resentment to resignation in the wake of last week's vote which effectively killed the team teaching proposal for the next three years.

About a third of the union's membership turned out for the vote which nearly tied at 56 against and 55 in support of the teaming plan crafted by the Junior High School administration and staff after two years of research.

A two-thirds majority of the union members present was needed for team teaching to have been approved.

Fear Of Impact On Staff Requests

Agawam Education President Andrew Bower said the teachers had acted on their fear that hiring six new teachers to implement team teaching at the Junior High would result in fewer staffing requests being granted to the other schools this year and in the future.

Bower said the union's contract negotiators had learned that the Central Office was cutting \$584,000 from the budget requests submitted by school principals, and the teachers were worried about additional staffing requests being cut from the other schools while staffing at the Junior High increased.

Bower said the teachers' union was told the teaming concept would carry a \$200,000 price tag, with \$180,000 for six teaching positions (two world language teachers and four team teachers) and \$20,000 in supplies. Given that the expense for the new teaching positions would be a continuing expense, the teachers did not trust the administration to provide the help needed to reduce the class size at the other levels down the road or in the near future, Bower said.

"The union leadership was in favor of the team teaching plan and we spoke in favor of it," Bower said. "We worked very hard to negotiate the contract language with the school department and, as an association, we felt it was a fair plan for the Junior High."

However, the union's members felt the plan was not fair for other schools, particularly the High School and the Middle School. Teachers at both schools believed the extra positions at the Junior High would mean staffing requests for their schools would be turned down. High School teachers wondered where the money would come from to staff the classrooms in the new school addition, and Middle School teachers felt the proposal would do nothing to alleviate large class sizes (28 to 30 students) at their school.

"The teachers didn't see any relief in sight and this proposal definitely wouldn't help their children," Bower said.

School Superintendent Frank Ameruso said as far as he is concerned, the issue of teaming is over for the duration of the next contract between the School Department and the teachers' union. The current three-year contract expires on June 30th and negotiations for a new contract have recently gotten underway.

"The teachers' vote tells me, in this instance, significant educational reform and change sometimes has to deal with the collective bargaining process and sometimes becomes hostage to it," Ameruso said.

Maybe The Groundhog Was Wrong?



WITH THE TEMPERATURE HOVERING AT nearly 60 degrees last Saturday, and with the golfers and landscapers already showing up, people in these parts are hoping for an early spring, including farmer Samuel Mischia of 600 Cooper Street, Agawam. Advertiser News photo by

Jack Devine.

SEE MEMBERS IRATE - Page 2...

MEMBERS IRATE - from Page 1...

Ironically, the public's perception of the power of teachers' unions to shape educational policy can be the fuel driving the movement toward vouchers for public education and charter schools, two concepts considered anathema to both teachers' unions and public education advocates.

Impetus For Charter School Movement

Ameruso said the impetus for the charter school movement is the belief that significant changes in public education can't happen in the current system where unions have control over policies that affect labor and management issues.

School Committeewoman Linda Galarneau agreed. "If parents see you can't get around a union contract for the benefit of the children, we're going to see more charter schools and more parents wanting to send their children to a school system where change is possible."

School Committeewoman Rosemary Sandlin was upset that educational policy is being set by a union vote and she, too, believes that is one reason why parents are walking away from public education and why the voucher system is gaining strength.

Ameruso echoed the statements of School Committee members and the Junior High School principal in reassuring parents that the school would not be damaged because team teaching won't be implemented.

"We have a substantial program in place and we will continue to improve the quality of our program," Ameruso said.

School Committee Chairman (Mayor) Christopher C. Johnson zeroed in on many of the key points made by other committee members in expressing their disappointment with the teachers' decision.

"This was a proposal that came from the Junior High principal and teachers. It was a mammoth effort by Kevin Littlefield and his staff," Johnson pointed out. "The School Committee was 100 percent in support of the plan and we were willing to commit the extra money to pay for it."

Johnson said the proposal would have been another positive step in the school system's work

over the last few years on systemic change. He hoped the School Committee would continue to work with the teachers on moving the school system forward.

As the School Department's chief negotiator in contract talks with the union leadership, Johnson said he hoped the incident would not have a negative effect on the relationship between the union and the School Committee as contract negotiations get underway.

School Committeewoman Teresa Kozloski also doesn't want to see anything negative in the relationship between the committee and the teachers.

"I'm disappointed. It would have been good to try it out. But, I have to accept the fact that we're not going to have team teaching," Mrs. Kozloski said. "I'm not going to go negative. We did our best to get everyone to take part in the process. We thought it was a good idea. But, they turned it down."

But, Mrs. Sandlin will be approaching the coming negotiations with a different attitude.

"By supporting the team concept, the School Committee showed that we value and trust our teachers and that we look to them for innovative ideas. But, now I'm really going to have to look at that contract," Mrs. Sandlin said.

Mrs. Sandlin said she wished a "gag rule" did not prevent the School Committee from discussing the negotiations with the teachers' union.

"If we all talked about what really went on during negotiations, parents would have a different view," Mrs. Sandlin said.

In the future, Mrs. Sandlin said she would not approve spending one dollar to research innovations in educational policies unless there was a waiver agreement with the union stipulating that innovative programs could be instituted on a trial basis (without being subject to contractual obligations).

Built-In Monitoring Of Program

Taking umbrage at the notion that the teaming concept was unproven as a reason for the teachers to turn down the proposal, School Committeewoman Susan Pettazzoni said a built-in three-year evaluation and revision process would have ensured consistent monitoring of the program to make sure it was working.

"This wasn't something that originated with us. This came to us from the Junior High staff who researched, documented, and revised the plan to

provide a better teaching and learning environment for the benefit of the children. It's a shame the teachers (who voted against the program) didn't trust each other enough to support them."

Denouncing the teachers' vote as "selfish," Mrs. Galarneau said the teaming proposal was a first step in the School Committee's plan to work at decreasing class sizes throughout the system.

"It's too bad the teachers didn't have the foresight to see this as the beginning of a widening dimension of reducing class size. We'd all love to solve everything at once, but no one has the money to do everything overnight," Mrs. Galarneau said.

Some School Committee members expect parents will be bringing their concerns to the committee during the portion of their meeting set aside for Citizen's Speak Time. Mrs. Pettazzoni said she has heard from nearly a dozen concerned community members in the week since the teachers' union voted down team teaching.

"I'm encouraging people to come and let us know what the community has to say. That's what we're there for," Mrs. Pettazzoni said. "I would look at our Citizen's Speak Time as an opportunity for parents to express their feelings. It's their only avenue to do that and I fully expect to hear from the rest of the community as well."

Mrs. Pettazzoni said she has great faith that the parents will "help enlighten" the members of the teachers' union. "I can't answer for the teachers. My suggestion is to put this back to its source and let parents call their teachers and ask why this happened."

The mother of six children currently attending school in Agawam and a PTO volunteer for several years, Joann McGeoghan believes parents have the right to know why the proposal was turned down and who voted against it or if teachers from a particular school defeated the proposal.

"As a parent, I wonder whether they are working in the best interest of the student body," Mrs. McGeoghan said. "The Junior High staff worked diligently on this for the benefit of the whole system, and I'm surprised the union didn't vote for it."

Mrs. McGeoghan thinks parents should voice their concerns to the School Committee, although she doesn't hold the committee responsible for the teachers' vote.

SEE MEMBERS IRATE - Page 5...

Check our classified pages every week

"You are the bows from which your children are as living arrows sent forth"

- Kahlil Gibran



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Letters To The Editor

Agawam Education Assoc. Addresses "Team Teaching"

To The Editor:

As the officers of the Agawam Education Association, we were responsible for the decision to put the proposed teaming plan for the Junior High School before our membership for their approval. We did so because we believed that the plan had great merit, for teachers as well as for students.

But our support for the proposed team teaching model does not blind us to the fact that there are significant professional and financial arguments against the implementation of the plan at this time. Our members who spoke and voted against the implementation of the team teaching plan articulated their objections ably and professionally.

Should all available district resources be channeled to only two grade levels? Could resources proposed to support team teaching be better used to lower class size at all levels? Should administrators at elementary, middle, and high school levels be forced to tell teachers that their staffing needs would have to take a back seat while teaming was implemented in one building?

These are issues about which serious professional educators can and do differ. Thus, we emphatically resist the notion that those who disagree with us are "unprofessional" or less concerned than we are about "educational change and improvement." Such statements do nothing to advance the kind of dialogue among educators which, alone, can move the school system forward.

As Association officers, we do not regret the decision to bring this plan forward. We do regret the fact that teachers still cannot articulate their views without being subject to dismissive statements and negative labels.

And, finally, we want to assure all Agawam parents and citizens that the teachers of Agawam have the best interest of their students at heart, even when they may disagree about the best way

Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano The Importance Of Fire Lanes

How many times has it irritated you to drive to your local shopping area to find a car parked in a fire lane? The message is simple; the message is direct! "NO PARKING — FIRE LANE" means just that.

When there is a fire or related emergency, police, fire, and medical vehicles need to have proper access so that the vehicles can get close enough to the buildings for rescue, firefighting, and emergency medical duties.

The Agawam Fire Department reminds you that leaving your vehicle unattended in a fire lane may hamper emergency efforts, and simply parking your vehicle leaves you open to a fine. Remember — if you park there, others will think it is acceptable to park there ... and it isn't. It's against the law.

You may think it is silly or overkill, but then

to meet student needs in an environment of scarce resources.

Andrew J. Bower, President
Shirley D. Letora, Vice President
Agawam Education Association

Remember, Children Learn From What Adults Say & Do

To The Editor:

My 11 year-old son is a sixth-grader at Agawam Middle School. For the sixth-grade trip to Washington D.C. this coming April, it was decided that the children would sell candy bars to raise money. Each child has as many as 800 candy bars to sell, with 50% of each sale going towards his/her trip.

This was an excellent chance for parents to teach their children about WORKING for a goal. My son was allowed to sell his candy at Geissler's Supermarket (THANK YOU, TOM & DAN) for two months, and thanks to their generosity and the generosity of the people of Agawam who shop there, he was able to sell his quota.

He and I both would like to thank the people who bought candy (some every time they came in), those who bought a candy but didn't take it so it could be sold again, and those who simply said, "No, thank you," and were polite.

I was sorry to count the number of people who were very rude or downright mean. I realize it can be an inconvenience to be asked to buy something when you walk into a store, and I apologize if my son bothered anyone.

But is rudeness to a child who is working (and believe me, selling is working) justifiable? If you're going to say no, please try to be kind. Remember, our children are learning from you.

Gratefully,
Bernice Rueli
Agawam

"Keep That Body Moving" Program Is Again A Success

To The Editor:

A special thank you to Leslie Martel Black, Agawam Middle School P.E. teacher, Fitness First Health Club, and the Agawam Middle School P.T.O. for making the "Keep That Body Moving" program a success again this year.

This program is possible because these people volunteer their time for our young people.

Agawam is lucky to have so many individuals and businesses who support our youngsters in such positive ways.

Thank you,
Hilda Bartnik, RN
School Nurse
Agawam Middle School

AHS JV Cheerleaders Win Awards At Competition

To The Editor:

Congratulations to the JV cheerleading team for a job well done.

The JV team placed second in the recent Pioneer Valley League Competition and fourth in the Western Mass. Tournament. A special thank you to Coach Betty Almquist and Donna Bodurtha for your support and encouragement.

The JV Parents

AHS Band Invites Everyone To Its Pancake Breakfast

To The Editor:

To All Concerned Citizens:

The Agawam High School Band will be hosting a pancake breakfast in conjunction with the Agawam Lions Club on Sunday, March 8th.

This pancake breakfast will be raising money to help the band in its efforts to compete in Atlanta, Georgia. The pancake breakfast will be at the Agawam Middle School from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on Sunday, March 8th.

Ticket prices are \$4 for adults, \$3 for students, and \$3 for senior citizens. All proceeds will go to aid the band in its efforts.

Tickets will be sold at the door. We thank anyone and everyone who can make it to support the band.

Sincerely,
Shawn Sherry & Carolyn Clini
Band Co-Presidents

Feeding Hills Resident Praises AHS's 1998 Winter Athletics

To The Editor:

Congratulations to all of the "1998 Agawam High School Winter Sports Teams" — the girls, the boys, and the coaches. No matter what the end results were, as long as you had fun and excellent sportsmanship!

Thank you very much to the parents, relatives, friends, and volunteers who came to the games. Your support was fantastic!

Very truly yours,
Clyde E.P. Benton
Feeding Hills

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

Friday, March 6th

Agawam Senior Center Melody Band
(sponsored by Agawam Cultural Council)
At Agawam Senior Center, Wright St., Agawam
7:30 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the public

Friday through Sunday, March 6th-8th
Children's Miracle Network Racquetball
Tournament & Aerob-A-Thon At Fitness First
Call Fitness First at 786-1460 for information
on specific events, times, etc.

Monday, March 9th

"Scholarship Fair" at AHS
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
For more information, call 821-0527

Monday, March 9th

Annual "Spring Parents' Night"
At Agawam Junior High School
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Monday, March 9th

Meeting of Catholic Women's Club of Agawam
At Parish Ctr., St. John the Evangelist Church
7:30 p.m.

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MEMBERS IRATE - from Page 2...

"We should let it be known — in a positive way — what direction we want the schools to be going in," Mrs. McGeoghan said.

Former School Committee candidate and long-time PTO volunteer Deborah Sekula was one of the organizers behind the elementary school playscape committee which recently reached its goal of raising enough money to earn matching funds offered by Town Council. She's also the mother of a child who will be entering the Junior High next year.

Always ready in the past to stand by the teachers and give them the benefit of the doubt, Mrs. Sekula said she will be looking at things quite differently from now on.

"I find it very troubling that other teachers stood in the way of a good thing for the Junior High kids," Mrs. Sekula said. "I don't see that they're working together for the best interest of the kids, and I think that's too bad."

Never even considering the possibility that team teaching would not be in place at the Junior High in the fall, Mrs. Sekula said she had been relieved that her daughter would be going into the smaller atmosphere of a team approach where the teachers have a better chance to get to know their students, to identify and help students having a

difficult time in an academic area, and where parents and teachers have a better opportunity to communicate.

"I don't even know where to begin. I'm shocked, disappointed, and angry," Mrs. Sekula said. "But, I can sum up how I'm feeling in one sentence: it's a crying shame!"

Committeewoman Roberta Doering wasn't sure if the issue of team teaching would be reconsidered, but she was disappointed at the loss of a program that would have helped the children.

"I can't explain it, but I think part of the reason it was turned down is that people don't like change," Mrs. Doering said. "The teachers are going to have to explain that. The parents have every right to ask their teachers why this happened."

School Committeeman Louis Massoia, Jr. thinks the issue of teaming should be discussed again, but during contract negotiations is not the right time. And he'd like to see a higher level of participation in the voting by the union membership.

"It should be mandatory for all teachers to vote and the union should make sure they hold the vote at a convenient time for everyone," Massoia said. "I'm disappointed that only 111 teachers showed up to vote. That isn't a good cross-section of the union members."

State Senate Passes Bill Requiring Negotiation For Cellular Tower Sitings At The Local Level

Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) announced Senate passage of a bill to require cellular providers to negotiate for tower sitings at the local level, thus giving towns and cities appropriate local control over construction of those towers within their boundaries.

Under the Senate-passed bill, the wireless industry will be unable to operate under the umbrella of public service corporations. It must reach out to local municipalities to develop strategic partnerships in its quest for construction and siting of system elements in Massachusetts communities.

This joint venture arrangement will be mutually beneficial to both our communities in the form of additional revenue and increased control over land use issues and abutter concerns and to the

wireless carriers which gain an expedited approval processes and more uniform regulatory provisions.

Another benefit for our cities is the opportunity to co-locate all carriers within and upon a centralized structure, thus minimizing the number of towers necessary within a given municipality or within a specific neighborhood, thereby addressing local concerns of the diminished attractiveness of their neighborhoods.

"Although we want 21st century technology enhancing communications, we must proceed carefully within our communities. We do not want to replace 20th century billboards that all too often have been placed indiscriminately on every street or neighborhood with 21st century cellular towers. This legislation will prevent such an occurrence."

Melconian Welcomes Spring Intern To Her District Office

Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Linda J. Melconian, is pleased to welcome Nicholas C. Casey as an intern to her district office. Nicholas' internship was made available through the Career Development Program at Chicopee Comprehensive High School under the direction of Christine A. Kervian. His internship will take place from February until the end of June.

Nicholas is a junior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. He is involved in school activities such as *The Western Massachusetts Academic Decathlon*, *As Schools Match Wits*, and *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* (coached by Stefan J. Czaprowski).

Nicholas is planning on majoring in political science upon graduating from Chicopee Comprehensive High School in 1999. Nicholas has a keen interest in politics, especially in Massachusetts.

"I have always found Massachusetts politics the most interesting. I first got involved with politics with the flamboyant Governor William F. Weld's quest for John Kerry's seat in the United States Senate. I have been fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to meet with some of Massachusetts' top lawmakers," he said. Nicholas went on to say, "I would like to thank Senator Melconian for giving me this opportunity to do something that I have dreamed about for a long time."

Senator Melconian, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, is the Assistant Majority Leader in the Massachusetts Senate. She was a prosecuting attorney and Assistant Counsel to the late Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Senator Melconian, who was a legislative intern during her college years, is happy to provide an opportunity for students in high school or college who are interested in public office. Nicholas will be doing data entry and perform various tasks for the Senator and her staff.

"I am finally doing what I always had wanted to do. I plan on working hard and always doing my best. That's the key to being successful," Nicholas concluded.



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Cell Tower Ordinance Okayed...

Council Approves 1st Reading On Personnel Assistant; Will Ask State To Fund Pensions

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At its Monday, March 2nd meeting, Town Council was unanimous in approving the final reading of the ordinance to control cell phone towers and in approving a resolution asking the state to assume the unfunded pension liability for Hampden County retirees when the county is abolished in July and the state takes over the county's assets.

The council also approved the first reading of Mayor Christopher C. Johnson's request to create the position of personnel assistant to the personnel director. The vote was 9-1, with Councilor Edward Caba casting the sole dissenting vote. Council Vice-President Robert Magovern was absent due to a business appointment.

Immediately preceding the council meeting, the Zoning Review Sub-committee, chaired by Councilor Gina Letellier, met and agreed to approve the cell phone tower ordinance without offering further amendments.

The ordinance will limit cell towers to monopoles with a height of 190 feet and identifies nine specific parcels of land where the towers may be erected. The zoning district where towers may be built includes Provin Mountain, Riverside Park, Bondi's Island, parts of the Agawam Regional Industrial Park, a parcel of land owned by Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and the four golf courses.

Under the proposed ordinance, telecommunications companies must post a performance bond to ensure that towers are dismantled and sites are returned to their original state when no longer used as transmitting stations.

The ordinance also requires a setback of 750 feet from any building and forces telecommunications companies to pay for camouflaging the towers and hiring an expert consultant to advise the Planning Board during site plan review.

A special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals will be required for all cell phone antenna applications.

The proposed ordinance will apply to any applications received between the time the legislation to control cell towers was first advertised (in December) and for 90 days after the Planning Board's January 20th public hearing.

Allowed to address Town Council for the first time in over a year, Johnson said the town needs another human resource professional to assist with confidential personnel information, personal medical and psychological records, employee disciplinary records, the interview process, and to

assist with preparing data and proposals used in the collective bargaining process with the unions.

Johnson said the creation of the position will not add to the number of people on the town's payroll because the person presently doing clerical work in the personnel office will be transferred to a vacant clerical position.

Upgrading the clerical position in the personnel office from a union position to a confidential administrative position will cost between \$6,500 and \$7,000 a year, according to the supporting documentation sent to the council several weeks ago.

A member of the Hampden County Retirement Board, Town Clerk Richard Theroux urged Town Council to approve a resolution, introduced by the Mayor, asking the state to assume the liability for unfunded county retirement pensions.

"This is a time bomb for our town's budget," Theroux said. "It comes down to an act of fairness. County government is going. However, if the state is going to take the county's assets, it should take on the county's liability as well."

When county government ceases to exist this summer, the town will be hit with a bill for nearly a half-million dollars to pay for the portion of county retirees' pensions not covered by employee contributions unless the state agrees to pick up the county's liabilities when it acquires the county's assets, according to the Mayor.

Because town employees (except School Department employees) are members of the county's retirement system, the town is responsible for the unfunded portion of their pensions.

However, it is neither fair nor equitable for the town to pick up the bill for retired county employees when the county ceases to exist and the state becomes the county in July, Johnson said.

Currently working on a legislative proposal with State Senator Linda Melconian and State Representative Daniel Keenan to shift the financial burden of county employee pensions to the state, Johnson has said he will seek a judicial settlement (in other words, sue the state) if a legislative settlement cannot be reached.

Theroux pointed out that some of the largest communities comprising Hampden County (Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, and West Springfield) are not members of the County's Retirement System and, therefore, will not be charged fees for the unfunded portion of county pensions, even though those communities have received the benefits of county services.

Melconian Continues To Support Mental Health Legislation

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) announced she is continuing her fight to pass mental health parity legislation, giving those with mental illness the same type of care as individuals with other physical ailments.

The Mental Health Parity legislation is currently in Senate Ways & Means. "I have been working closely with the Ways & Means Committee to move this vital issue forward," said Melconian, a co-sponsor. "It is important to remove the stigma surrounding individuals with mental illnesses."

The legislation would require full parity for mental health and substance abuse outpatient services. Currently, benefits are capped at \$500 per individual. These services would be treated no differently than any other outpatient service for physical illness. For the first eight outpatient visits, insurance companies may require only patient name, diagnosis, and date and type of service as a condition of receiving the outpatient mental health benefit. Following the first eight sessions, medical necessity and utilization reviews would be required just like all other health care for physical illness.

"There is no reason to have mental illness treated any differently than physical ailments," Melconian said. "For too long, mental illness has been feared and misunderstood. This legislation would go a long way toward changing attitudes."

In the last several years, Melconian has championed the efforts to have the cap on mental illness and substance abuse treatment raised. Slowly, her efforts appear to be gaining momentum. The Ways & Means staff, in consultation with Melconian, her staff, and others is continuing to progress toward consensus legislation.

"We will continue our fight to see this legislation to a successful conclusion," Melconian said.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998 at 6:45 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of COUNTRY ESTATES PARTNERSHIP, which is seeking to amend Case No. 1192 in accordance with Section 180-62 and 180-55, of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for an addition to the existing facility at the premises identified as: 1200 SUFFIELD STREET.

Doreen Prouty, Acting Chairperson
Published: March 5, 1998

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998 at 6:30 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of M. REZA MEHRABI AND RACHEL D. STERN, who are seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-8 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for a kennel at the premises identified as: 165 LEONARD STREET.

Ronald A. Hebert, Chairman
Published: March 5, 1998

TURN YOUR OLD
VASE
into a *new*
Plant.

From now until March 30th, if you bring in a used glass vase for us to recycle, you'll go home with a pretty green plant free. Bring in your used baskets, too. Offer is limited to one plant per family, please. It's one small step toward keeping the planet green, and your home beautiful.

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Discounts Available On Infant And Toddler Car Seats...

Agawam Police Department To Conduct Car Seat Safety Seminar On Saturday, March 14th

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Thanks to a partnership between the Agawam Police Department and a local retailer of children's furniture and accessories, parents will be offered the opportunity to attend a car seat safety seminar and receive vouchers good for discounts on infant and toddler car seats.

Agawam Police Safety Officer (Sergeant) Steven Draghetti will conduct a car seat safety seminar for parents on Saturday, March 14th in the Police Station Community Room beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Expected to last about an hour, the seminar is free and preference for the limited seating will be given to Agawam residents. Anyone interested in attending is asked to call the police station at 786-4767 to register for the program.

In addition to getting information regarding

changes in the Massachusetts laws governing car seat use for infants and young children, seminar participants will learn about the different types of car seats and the hazards facing unrestrained children in the event of a crash, Draghetti said.

As a co-sponsor of the safety seminar, **Serv-U Baby Castle** is offering seminar participants a certificate redeemable for Century infant or toddler car seats at a price of \$25 and \$42, respectively.

Draghetti said he was able to obtain Serv-U's sponsorship as a result of their mutual involvement with the Western Massachusetts Safe Kids Coalition at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

"Serv-U offered us the same deal on car seats they offer to the Safe Kids Coalition, which is about half off the retail price," Draghetti said.

Parents, for whom even a discount priced car seat would be a financial burden, can obtain a free car seat by attending the seminar, providing they meet certain financial guidelines, Draghetti said.

"We have free car seats on a limited basis that will be distributed based on financial need," Draghetti said. "The guidelines for establishing financial need will be based on federal poverty level guidelines, participation in government assistance programs, and on referrals from the clergy and social service agencies."

The free car seats were provided to the Police Department through a grant obtained by the Safe Kids Coalition.

Tax Tip From The IRS...

Invest In An IRA

These days, people have to plan ahead and invest wisely to provide for a more secure retirement. For many, setting up an individual retirement arrangement (IRA) can give that extra peace of mind.

Anyone who has taxable compensation, such as wages, tips, commissions, and taxable alimony, and who will be under age 70½ at the end of the year, can set up an IRA. Money can be put into an IRA any time during the year or by the due date of the tax return for that year, not including extensions.

Contributions must be in the form of money, such as cash, check, or money order. Property doesn't count. Many people can deduct part or all of their contributions. And the earnings generally are not taxed until they're withdrawn from the account.

The most a person can contribute for any year is \$2,000 or taxable compensation, whichever is smaller. Married couples who both work can each invest up to \$2,000. And beginning in 1997, a couple may put \$2,000 into each spouse's IRA even if one spouse has little or no taxable compensation. Previously, their combined contributions were limited to \$2,250.

Starting in 1997, the 10 percent additional tax on early withdrawals from an IRA doesn't apply to distributions up to the amount paid for unreimbursed medical expenses that are more than 7½ percent of adjusted gross income. Also, the 10 percent additional tax may not apply to distributions up to the amount people pay for medical insurance for themselves, their spouse, and dependents. However, certain conditions must be met.

The Taxpayer Relief Act adds some new IRA provisions beginning in 1998. One is a new IRA to invest in. The "Roth IRA" features nondeductible contributions, with tax-free distributions if they begin at least five years after the initial contribution and the taxpayer is at least age 59½, or disabled, or a beneficiary, or the proceeds are used for a first-time home purchase.

SEE TAX TIP - Page 8...

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Teachers' Union Chief Says Members Had Valid Reasons For Nixing Team Teaching

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

A three-year effort by the Junior High school administration and staff to restructure their school teaching approach died at the hands of the teachers' union last week despite the endorsement of the union leadership.

Hours before last Tuesday's School Committee meeting, the Agawam Education Association met to vote on contract language that would have made team teaching workable at the Junior High by hiring an additional four member team of teachers and restructuring the daily schedule of classes into fewer, but longer periods for the academic teachers. Two new foreign language teachers were to have been included in the plan.

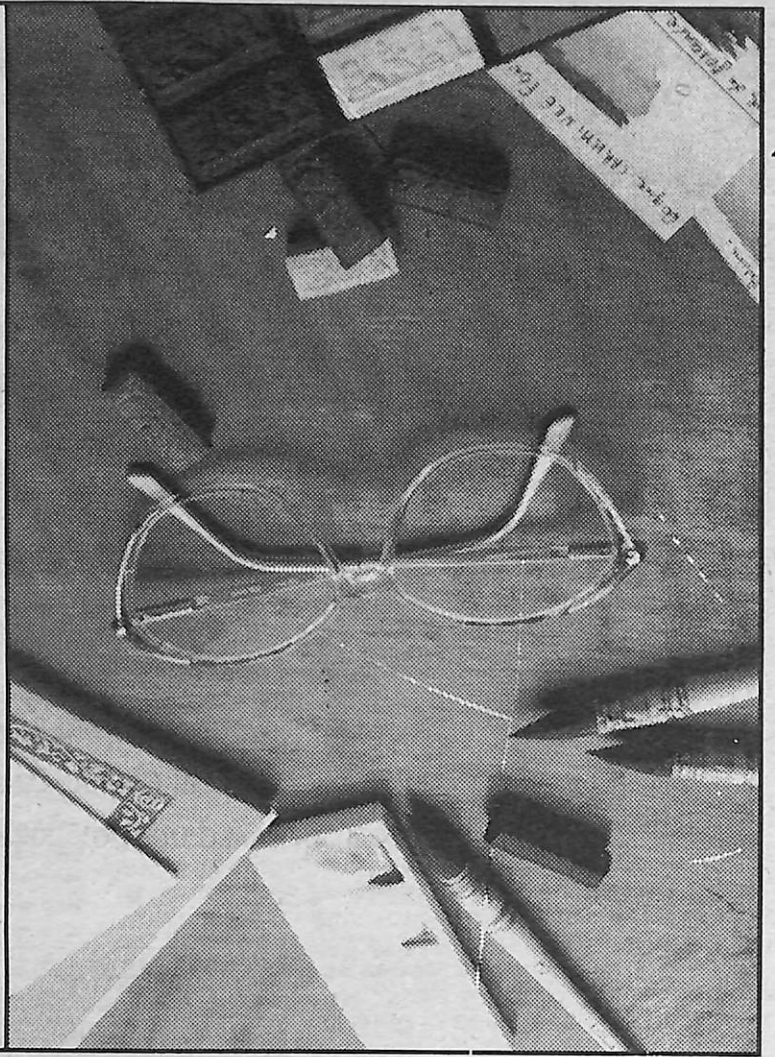
School Committee Chairman (Mayor) Christopher C. Johnson said the restructuring plan for the Junior High School had to be ratified by the union membership because state and federal laws require the approval of the bargaining unit whenever an employer changes employees' working conditions.

There is specific language in the contract setting forth the number of periods taught and the amount of prep time the teachers will have at each school, Johnson said. "This would have reduced the number of classes taught at the Junior High to four and given the teachers more prep time, while teachers at the Middle School teach five classes a day and teachers at the High School teach five and sometimes six classes."

Although declining to return phone calls when first contacted last week, AEA President Andrew Bower said the actions of school administration and the School Committee in making comments to the press released him from his agreement with Johnson to refrain from making statements (until a joint statement was issued by the union and the Superintendent of Schools).

According to Bower, about a third of the union's membership turned out to vote on the issue of team teaching at the Junior High. Although Bower declined to give exact figures on the vote, the AEA has learned that 111 teachers voted 55-55 against team teaching for the Junior High School. "We needed a two-thirds majority of the members present and we didn't get it," Bower said. "Our members had valid concerns. The majority felt that the cost of adding six new staff personnel at \$180,000 would have hurt other levels of education for a program that hasn't been proven. The members felt there was no proof that spending all this money on one level would be beneficial, and that all other levels would suffer when their requests for staff were turned down."

Under the team teaching system, a group of teachers will pool their resources, interests, expertise, and knowledge of the students to share the responsibility for planning, teaching, and evaluating curriculum and instruction in more than one academic area. Typically, a team will include teachers from several subject areas working from a shared set



of goals and expectations for their students. Proponents say another benefit of team teaching is common planning time for the teachers which results in better communication with parents (because all of a student's teachers will be available at the same time for parent conferences). Also, common planning provides consistent classroom discipline and expectations as well as improved coordination of homework and test scheduling so that the students aren't inundated with work.

Plan First Presented in February 1997
School Superintendent Frank Amoruso, along with the entire seven members of the School Committee, enthusiastically endorsed the plan to restructure the Junior High when the plan was first presented by Principal Kevin Littlefield and members of his staff at a School Committee meeting in February 1997.

Littlefield, along with Vice Principal Marc Costanzi, Guidance Counselor Frank Meagher, and music teacher Susan Brown, presented the findings of the steering committee formed in 1995 to investigate a restructuring plan based on the Middle School philosophy of teaming students and teachers. Their conclusion was that restructuring the Junior High must be done in order to provide the students with the "most appropriate, up-to-date, and best overall education."

A month later, Littlefield returned to the School Committee with the news that, although his staff overwhelmingly supported the concept of teaming (53-7), the staff deadlocked in a 30-30 tie over the specifics of the administrator's plan to add two new teachers (resulting in a new schedule that would have teamed a core group of four teachers with a group of 120 students for instruction in English, math, science, and social studies).

Last spring, Littlefield was told by the School Committee to work with his staff on addressing their concerns so that teaming could be instituted in September 1998. After consulting with staff members, Littlefield drew up the plan that was turned down by the membership of the teachers' union last week.

Will Continue To Meet The Kids' Needs
"Of course we're disappointed that we will not be able to move to a new method of delivering our curriculum," Littlefield said. "But, I want to make sure parents and the public understand that we will continue to meet the needs of our kids as we have done for the last 25 years."

Littlefield stressed that just because teaming had been presented as a better way of teaching adolescents, it did not mean the school had been doing things in a bad way. "We've been doing a good job ever since the school opened and we'll continue. It just won't be a small group of teachers working with a small group of kids," Littlefield said. "Our academics will not change. We weren't looking to change our curriculum; we were looking to change how the curriculum was delivered to our students."

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TAX TIP - from Page 7...

Annual contributions to all IRAs — Roth, deductible, and nondeductible — are limited to a total of \$2,000. The limit for Roth IRAs is phased out as adjusted gross income (AGI) increases from \$95,000 to \$110,000 (\$150,000 to \$160,000 on a joint return). Unlike the other two IRA types, Roth IRAs allow people to contribute after they reach age 70½, and don't require any mandatory withdrawals.

Those with AGI under \$100,000 can roll over a non-Roth IRA into a Roth IRA. They will have to pay tax as though they had withdrawn the funds, but there is no early withdrawal penalty. If the rollover takes place in 1998, the taxable amount is spread out over four years. That is, one-quarter of the taxable rollover is included in income in 1998, 1999, and so on. Married couples filing separate returns can't contribute to, or roll over into a Roth IRA.

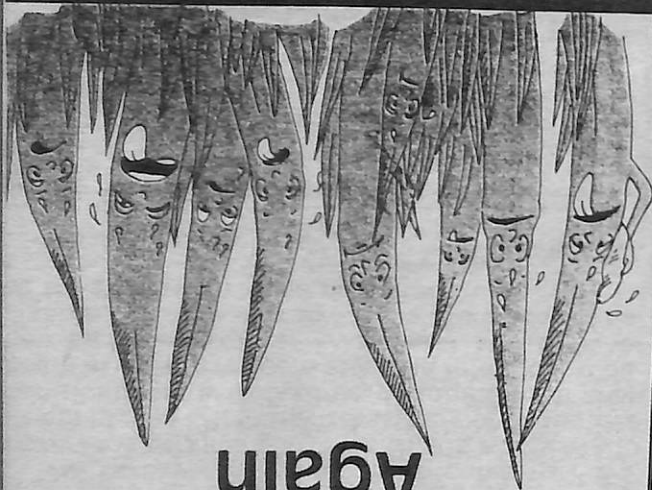
The Taxpayer Relief Act also created an "Education IRA," which is not a retirement savings vehicle, but one used to pay for qualified higher education expenses of a designated beneficiary. It features nondeductible contributions up to \$500 a year per beneficiary, with no tax on the earnings when used for higher education expenses. The beneficiary must be under age 18 when the contribution is made. The limit is phased out for a contributor as that person's income increases, with the same phase-out range as for the Roth IRA.

For people who want to tap into non-Roth IRAs to help pay for qualified higher education expenses, the Act allows them to do so. And first-time home buyers can withdraw up to \$10,000 from their IRAs. In each case, they'll pay tax on the amount withdrawn, but no penalty.

Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), gives information on IRAs, including how to compute and report deductible and nondeductible contributions, when to start withdrawing the money, the new rules beginning in 1997, and what actions will result in penalties. Publication 553, Highlights of 1997 Tax Changes, discusses new tax law. Order them by calling 1-800-829-3676.

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Melconian Secures Funding For WMass. Precision Institute

In the FY '98 state budget, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) secured \$350,000 for the Western Massachusetts Precision Institute in Springfield, the only dedicated machine training facility in New England.

Six months later, the Institute doubled its enrollment, adding new staff and faculty, achieved 100 percent employment placement, and fully upgraded its technology and machinery.

"Funding for the WMPI was an important priority for me in last year's budget," Melconian said. "To see such progressive development so quickly is even more gratifying."

The Institute, which has graduated 1,500 students since its inception in 1970, provides entry level, skills training and on-site technical training to individuals seeking to work in the machining industry. It also offers Massachusetts precision manufacturers a whole range of services to improve the skill levels of their employees who can then use those enhanced skills to their best advantage.

Since receiving funding, the Institute has significantly improved its technology, including the addition of two new machining centers and a conventional milling machine. As the 21st century approaches, technology is taking on increased importance. The Western Massachusetts Precision Institute recognizes this, and has taken a number of substantial steps to upgrade its facilities and offerings.

"I am pleased to see that the funding allocated has been well spent," Melconian said. "I believe the sky's the limit. The Western Massachusetts Precision Institute is well on its way to becoming a premier institution in Western and Central Massachusetts."

In Western Massachusetts alone, there are over 400 Precision Manufacturers, employing over 12,000 Melconian will support continued efforts to enable Western Massachusetts' residents to learn valuable manufacturing skills and compete for jobs in a changing marketplace.

"The skills necessary to succeed are different from what they were even five years ago," Melconian said. "We need to provide our citizenry with 21st century technological training that can translate into jobs."

Veterans' Corner...

by Ruth C. Bitzas - Veterans' Agent

Honor Roll Update

At this point, I feel certain that many are wondering about the HONOR ROLL project and when this project may come to fruition. Well, most of our research is completed; we reported earlier that a group of us made a few trips to the Adjutant General's War Records Dept. in Boston, and all of the information is now transferred to our computer system.

However, we came up with approximately 100 names that War Records didn't seem to have. We made a list and I called the Director of that office and was told that this group of records was not with the others when we did our research.

They recognized the time and effort we had spent compiling our list and agreed to check these additional names out for us based on our mailed listing. We just received their research last week.

I would like to publicly thank John Mullen and Ellie Boissenault for joining my assistant, Dianne Moreau, and I in completing research at the War Records Dept. in Boston, and for the research currently in progress. We are now researching Agawam's Revolutionary veterans at the Springfield Historical Museum.

In addition, our thanks go out to John Manning of Agawam for providing his research on Revolutionary veterans completed several years ago. With the help of all of the above, we should come up with as accurate a list as possible.

Our goal is to dedicate an Honor Roll of Agawam wartime veterans on Memorial Day 1999.

I feel as I did with all of the projects completed on Veterans' Green, and that is that residents will come forward to help wherever they can.

The year 2000 will find us very busy with plans for the dedication of the State Veterans' cemetery; thus, we would like the Honor Roll completed rather than waiting until 2001.

It can happen with a little bit of help from our friends. Lists of veterans will be published by war in *The Agawam Advertiser News* in the very near future.

HONOR ROLL COMMITTEE:

Agawam Veterans' Council — Ed Kellogg (Chairman), Ruth Bitzas (Veterans' Agent), Jay O'Sullivan, Jessie Fuller, and George Schlagel.

Project Committee Members — Peg Brown (American Legion Auxiliary), Ellie Boissenault, John Mullen, Priscilla Peterson, Ron Hamel, Mark McCormick, Jerry Couture, Louis Russo, Tony Polacco, Alvin Kellogg, and Paul Danahy and Ken Morytko of Post 185 (American Legion), and Persian Gulf veteran Chris Sanchez.

PLEASE NOTE:

The second annual Flag Day Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, June 14th, at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course to raise funds for the Honor Roll. Everyone had a great time last year, so join us this year for lots of fun and great prizes.

If you have any questions or ideas about the Honor Roll project, please feel welcome to contact Veterans' Services at Agawam Town Hall, 786-0400, ext. 236/237.

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Captain Charles Leonard House, Agawam

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• Younger Widowed Support Group •

Thurs., March 12, 7:00-9:00pm

Forastiere-Smith Grief Support Center, East Longmeadow

• Family & Friends Support Group •

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Captain Charles Leonard House, Agawam

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Clarice Smith

Clarice (Landis) "Levis" Smith, 75, of 156 Suffolk Street, Agawam, died at home.

She was a 25-year Springfield city school-teacher and a counselor.

She was a trustee of the Springfield Library and Museum Association and the Naurison Foundation. She belonged to the Springfield Symphony and the Jewish Genealogy Association and the Jewish Nursing Home of Western Massachusetts.

She was also active with the Literacy Volunteers. She was born in Springfield and moved to Agawam a few years ago.

She graduated from Smith College and was Valedictorian and Phi Beta Kappa. She was a Russian exchange student during the 1960's.

She earned master's degrees from both Springfield College and the University of Connecticut-Storrs.

She was a licensed social worker and counseled battered women. She volunteered at Baystate Medical Center and tutored Russian immigrant children. She was a member at the Temple Beth El.

Her husband, Judge Abraham I. Smith, died in 1980.

She leaves two sons, Peter L. and James M., both of Longmeadow; a sister, Helen Shapiro of Pomano Beach, Florida; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Harold R. Ascher and Son Memorial Chapel, with burial in Beth El Cemetery in West Springfield. A memorial observance took place at the Longmeadow home of Peter L. Smith, with evening services Monday through Wednesday (March 2nd-4th).

Memorial contributions may be made to the Abraham I. Smith Scholarship Fund at Western New England College School of Law, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119.

Bertha G. Cardone

Bertha G. (Demarias) Cardone, 83, of 64 Sunnyslope Avenue, Agawam, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She was the proprietor of the Agawam Public Market for more than 50 years with her husband.

Born in Granby, Canada, she was educated in Chicopee schools.

She was a communicant and charter member of St. John the Evangelist Church.

She was a member of the Catholic Women's Club and the Cursillo Movement.

Her husband of 63 years, Joseph Cardone, died in 1995.

She leaves two sons, Phillip of Wilbraham and John of Agawam; two daughters, Theresa Lovotti of Agawam and Patricia Allsop of Springfield; two sisters, Claire Colonna of Springfield and Cecile Bosse of Nashua, New Hampshire; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA 01089, or the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, 1694 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01101.

Rita C. Dowd

Southwick: Rita C. (Champigny) Dowd, 77, of 75 South Loomis Street, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Born in Agawam, she was a long-time Feeding Hills resident.

She belonged to the Southwick Senior Center and lived in Southwick for 10 years.

Her husband, Edmund F. Dowd, died in 1980, and a son, Edmund F. Dowd, Jr., in 1937.

She leaves two other sons, Edmund R. of Chicopee, and William M. of Southwick; a daughter, Marleen C. Jakoboski of Westfield; a sister, Claire Buckley of Southwick; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Western Mass. Division, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9A, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Loretta Moccio

Loretta (Burkey) Moccio, 97, formerly of 339 Suffolk Street, Agawam, died in a local nursing home.

She and her late husband, Alphonse A. Moccio, owned and operated the Loral Coffee House until 1969. She worked previously at the Springfield Armory.

She was born and educated in Nova Scotia, and was a long-time resident of Agawam.

She leaves a son, Leo D. of Agawam, and two granddaughters.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and St. John the Evangelist Church, with the burial in Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

Robert J. Woods

Robert J. Woods, 76, of Chestnut Street, Springfield, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He worked for O-A Inc. of Agawam for 26 years. Born in Springfield, he was a Technical High School graduate, and attended American International College.

He was a World War II Marine Corps veteran, and saw action with the 1st Marine Division in the Pacific theater.

He lived in Agawam for several years before returning to Springfield several years ago.

He was predeceased by his wife, the former Ruth K. Waterbury, in 1994, and a son, Jeffery A. Woods, who died in December.

He leaves two other sons, Gary of Hampden, and Robert Jr. of Springfield; and a brother, William of Springfield.

The funeral and burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery were private, and Dickinson-Streeter Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9A, West Springfield, MA 01089-1540.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 12...

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OBITUARIES - from Page 11...

Felix Bassi

Felix Bassi, 88, of Agawam, died at a local nursing home.

He worked at Worthington Corp. for many years.

Born in Rivanazzano, Italy, he lived in Agawam most of his life.

He was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church, a member of the Westfield Sportsmen's Club, and an Army veteran of World War II.

His wife, the former Helen Cassanova, died in 1979.

He leaves a son, Philip A. Westfield; a sister, Albina Settembro of Agawam; and two granddaughters, Kristen and Lindsey Bassi of Westfield.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home and the church, with the burial at St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pioneer Valley Hospice, P.O. Box 9058, 50 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

Arline A. Correa

Arline A. (Emonds) Correa, 74, formerly of 42 Broz Terrace, Feeding Hills, died in a local nursing home.

Born in Springfield, she spent most of her life in Feeding Hills.

Her husband, Michael A. Correa, died in 1991. She leaves a niece, Diane S. Aubin of Springfield, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery in Feeding Hills.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Ruth L. Mesler

Ruth L. Mesler, 100, of 61 Cooper Street, Agawam, and formerly of Northampton and Framingham, died at a local nursing home.

She was a 46-year production worker at Denison Co. in Framingham, and retired in 1981.

Born in Boston and schooled in Oxford, she was a long-time Framingham resident before moving to Northampton in the early 1980's.

She was a direct descendant of William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth Colony, and a cousin of President Grover Cleveland.

She leaves no close relatives.

The funeral and burial at Cherry Valley Cemetery in Leicester will be at the convenience of the family.

Dickinson-Streeter Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Robert C. Allen

Robert C. Allen, 91, of Ellenton, Florida died February 18, 1998.

Born in Agawam, Mr. Allen lived there until moving to Florida in 1980.

He was a custodian at the Hampden County Improvement League in West Springfield for 30 years.

He was a longtime member of the Agawam Congregational Church and the Agawam Sportsmen's Club until moving to Florida.

He is survived by his wife, Verna R. Allen; three daughters, Cynthia A. Latulip of Torrance, California, Dorothy C. Rising of Hollywood, Florida, and Linda Nottall of Agawam; two sisters, Marion Pond of Agawam and Edith Johnson of Springfield; eight grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 10459, Bradenton, Florida 34282-0459.

Louise E. Brown

Louise E. (Rogus) Brown, 86, of Agawam, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She was a shipping agent at the former Indian Motorcycle Co. in Springfield for 19 years.

Born in Ware, she attended schools there and in Springfield, and moved to Springfield in 1929.

She also lived in Wilbraham, Newport, Vermont, Palmer, and Agawam.

She belonged to the Hobby Club in Springfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Jack R. Brown, in 1977, and a son, Robert H., in 1979.

She leaves a son, Richard P., and a daughter, Jacqueline L. Normoyle, of Springfield; a sister, Frances Gurski of Palmer; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was private, and Alternative Funeral Services was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Beatrice I. Bourgeois

Beatrice I. Bourgeois, 81, of 32 Chapin Street, Feeding Hills, died at a local nursing home.

She was a condenser winder and assembler at Wico Presto Lite Co. of West Springfield for 30 years.

Born in Springfield, she was a communicant of St. Theresa's Church, and belonged to the Senior Center and Golden Agers Chapter 1.

She lived in Feeding Hills from 1957.

She leaves two sisters, Blanche E. Bourgeois of Feeding Hills, and Priscilla Newman of Vero, Florida.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam and the church, with the burial at St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Isabelle L. Wheeler

Isabelle L. Wheeler, 102, of Agawam, and formerly of Springfield, died on her birthday at a local nursing home.

She worked for Milton Bradley Co. of East Longmeadow.

Born in Gilbertville, Palmer, she was a Springfield Golden Ager.

She was predeceased by her husband, Lloyd A. Wheeler, and two sons, Lloyd A. Jr. and Kenneth Wheeler.

School Committee To Meet March 10th

The Agawam School Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 1998 in the Agawam Middle School Auditorium, 68 Main Street, at 7:30 p.m. Old Business to be discussed: SCR-98-16, Request for Approval of Scholarship; SCR-98-17, Request for Use of School Facilities; SCR-98-18, Appointment of Mary Czajkowski as Asst. Supt. for Educational Service.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 12, 1998 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Riverside Park for property located at 1623 Main Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: March 5, 1998

Best local
news - AAN!!!

She leaves nieces and nephews.

Sampson's Chapel of the Acres was in charge of the arrangements, and the burial was held in St. Michael's Cemetery (both in Springfield).

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

Spiro Agapiou

Spiro Agapiou, 74, of 510 Mill Street, Feeding Hills, died at home.

He was the owner of Spiro's Barber Shop in Ansonia, CT, and the Barbership on the Green in New Haven, CT.

He was born in Derby, CT, and lived in New Haven for 37 years before moving to Feeding Hills 12 years ago.

He was a corporal in the Army during World War II and served in Italy and North Africa.

He attended the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Ansonia and St. Barbaras Greek Orthodox Church in New Haven.

His wife, Ismini Paleologos Agapiou, predeceased him.

He leaves two daughters, Alike Agapiou Milsop of Warehouse Point, CT, and Cynthia Agapiou Grannells of Southwick; a brother, John of Orange; a sister, Daisy Sarris of Shelton, CT; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The funeral was held at Jenkins-Kings Funeral Home and in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, both in Ansonia. Burial was in Pine Grove Cemetery, also in Ansonia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA 01089, or to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

George L. Circosta

George L. Circosta, 71, of 431 Silver Street, Agawam, died at home.

He worked at Waldorf Corp. of Chicopee for 21 years, and retired in 1990.

A lifelong resident of Agawam, he was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church, and a Korean War Army veteran.

He leaves two sisters, Jennie Pirog, with whom he lived, and Rose Oppedisano of Springfield.

The funeral was held at West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with the burial at St. Michael's Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

State Rep. Keenan Salutes "Agawam Day" In Florida

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan recently sent his greetings to Agawam residents at the annual Agawam Day in Florida. The event was held on March 4th.

"I think this is a wonderful event and celebration of community," stated Keenan. "It speaks volumes about Agawam that people from the same community come together thousands of miles from home."

Keenan concluded that he is honored and privileged to be the state representative of Agawam and its residents that take pride in their community.

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Families

Heritage Hall Is Going To The "Dogs"!!!



IN LEFT PHOTO: The Springfield Kennel Club recently held a "Dog Show" at Heritage Hall's North Building for the entertainment of the residents. IN RIGHT PHOTO: At Heritage Hall's South Building, Vicki Govoni and her four-legged friend, "Ko Ko" (the South Building's mascot), enjoyed themselves at a Hawaiian-themed event. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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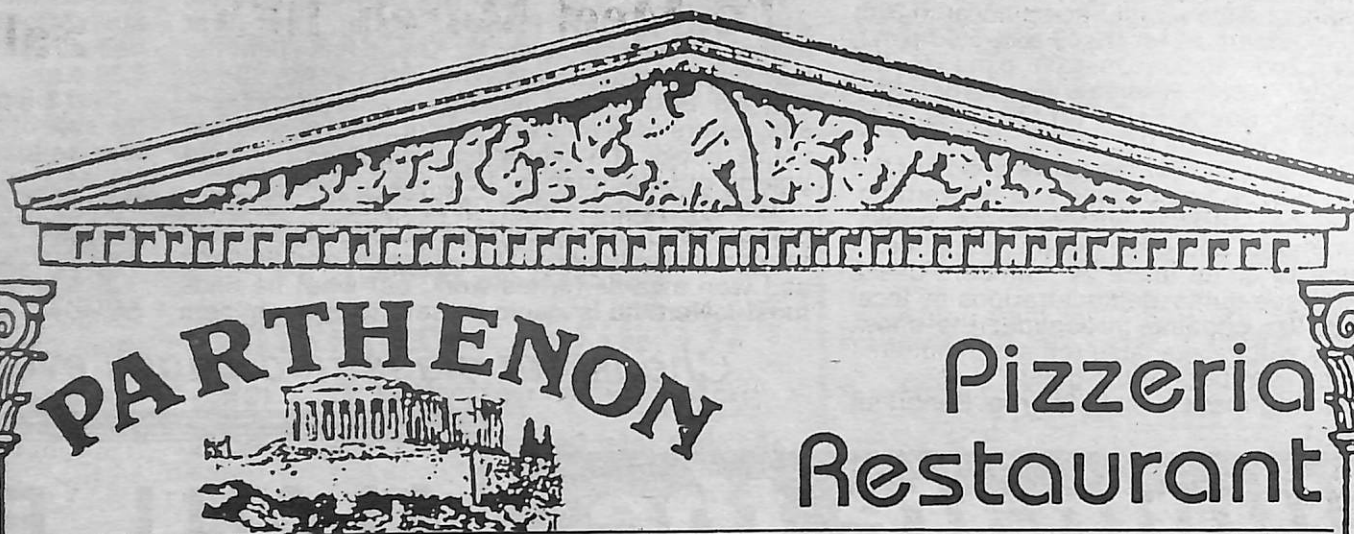
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Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 9th: Salisbury steak with gravy and noodles, carrots, pumpernickel bread, fresh orange.

Tuesday, March 10th: Escarole soup, chicken cutlet on a roll with tomatoes and lettuce, potato puffs, plums.

Wednesday, March 11th: Meatloaf with gravy, ranch mashed potatoes, green beans, rye bread, ice cream.

Thursday, March 12th: Stuffed cabbage, potato cheesebake, corn, whole wheat bread, mixed fruit.

Friday, March 13th: St. Patrick's Day celebration — corned beef, boiled potatoes, carrots and cabbage, Irish soda bread, shamrock cake.

Junior Women's Club Has Scholarship Applications

The Agawam Junior Women's Club annually awards six \$500 scholarships for graduating Agawam seniors. Applications will be available at the Scholarship Fair, which will be held in the High School cafeteria on March 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The contest is open to Agawam residents who are graduating from any of the area high schools. Applications must be completed and returned by April 1, 1998.

Applications may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Scholarship Committee, Agawam Junior Women's Club, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

Pioneer Valley Quilters To Hold Show At The Ramada In W. Spfld.

The Pioneer Valley Quilters will present their fourth "Pieces of Time" Quilt Show on March 20th (5:00-9:00 p.m.), March 21st (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.), and March 22nd (10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) at the Ramada Hotel, 1080 Riverdale St., West Springfield (Route 5 South, Exit 4 off the Mass. Pike or Exit 13B off Interstate 91).

Admission fee is \$4. For the convenience of the public, there will be free parking and babysitting. Vendors will be available with patterns, books, fabrics, templates, and other quilting supplies.

In addition to quilts made by members of the guild and antique quilts, demonstrations by local teachers will be ongoing throughout the show. Raffle tickets will be available for a hand-quilted quilt made by members of the guild.

For more information, call Sharon Benoit at (413) 534-3541.

"Today's Native American Cooking Show" Is A Successful Event

The Native American cooking show held recently at the elegant Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, Connecticut, was a full house and an acclaimed success, with people coming from as far away as Berlin, New Hampshire, and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The featured artist of the evening, Loretta Barrett Oden (a Native American chef, food historian, lecturer, and a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Tribe of Oklahoma), tantalized everyone with her culinary talents and her internationally-acclaimed, innovative menus and contemporary interpretation of centuries-old recipes.

She has appeared on "Good Morning, America" and has been featured in *National Geographic*, *Traveler*, *The New York Times*, *Prevention Magazine*, *Sunset*, *Veranda*, *Food Arts*, and many other publications.

In January of 1998, Loretta taped a segment on "World Class Cuisine" with Robin Leach, and this May, she will serve as a guest chef in the "Robert Mondavi Great Chef Series," with hopes of debuting a new restaurant concept based upon the Native American experience.

This unique cooking show was presented and hosted by Alan "CloudWalker" Gagne of the "Today's Native American" television program (Bloomfield, Connecticut), and sponsored by many and various businesses in New England and the Southwest, including Walnut Street Dry Cleaners (Agawam), Fran's Restaurant (Feeding Hills), Stop & Shop, and Ambrogio's Bakery (Feeding Hills).

Included in the program were Reverend Rainbow NSW-(Fort'ner) Shaer, Turtle Island Native

American Church (Cherokee), who officiated with the opening and closing prayers and Native American songs, accompanied by Joseph "ThunderCloud" Shaer (drumming).

Also on hand were The Silver Cloud Singers, Charles Urrutia (Courting Flute), and Poems of Chief Eagle of the Wampanoag Nation (read by Denise Canora).

The show featured give-aways, including products from Maple Grove Farms in Vermont; an autographed copy of "Billy Frog Adventures" from Rainbow and Chris "Blue Fox" of Feeding Hills and Agawam; Quinnehtukqut Seeds of Change, founded by Denise Canora of Granby, Connecticut; and products from Cowboy, Indians and Angels (Judy "Tex" of Simsbury, Connecticut).

Rev. Rainbow commented, "It was an incredible spiritual evening, and it was amazing to experience so much positive, good energy with so many various people — Native and non-Native — coming together to share in their likenesses and their differences of cultural backgrounds. It only made me realize all the more how much we are all connected and important to the sacred hoop of life."

And she went on to say, "We all also extend a very special thanks to Paul McKeegan, manager of the Wampanoag Country Club, and his chef, Mike, and their staff, for playing an extremely instrumental role in bringing their hard work and energy to the success of the program."

"Today's Native American Cooking Show" was filmed live by a fantastic crew, Mark K. Devin of Enfield, Connecticut (of WGBY), with John, Steve, and Keith. The show will be shown on CBT, "Today's Native American" program, at a future date (to be announced).

Agawam Historical Society To Present Program On Old Sturbridge Village

On March 10th, the Agawam Historical Association will host the Ramapogue Historical Society of West Springfield and will present a program on Old Sturbridge Village, one of the largest outdoor museums in the United States.

The Village serves as a powerful public monument to the American Story. William B. Reid, Director of Development of the Village, will review the history and future plans of Old Sturbridge.

Accompanying Mr. Reid will be Robert Olson, who will portray Richard Potter, the first American-born magician. Mr. Olson has spent the last 30 years researching the 19th century life of Richard Potter from antique books, newspaper ads, letters of people who saw his shows, even account books that show how much Potter paid boards of selectmen for licenses to perform.

Mr. Olson, like Potter, uses a lot of audience participation in "Yesterday's Magic." Olson performed throughout the U.S., Canada, and England and won awards for his work; but what he finds most rewarding is magic presentations to children

and families.

Mr. Olson's fondest dream is that one day, following a performance, someone from the audience will come forward — someone who just happens to be a descendant of Richard Potter, and possesses the old magician's trunk of tricks.

Richard Bellico, President of the Agawam Historical Association, stated that due to an anticipation of high attendance, the meeting will be held at the Agawam Baptist Church Hall at 760 Main Street, Agawam. A business meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m.

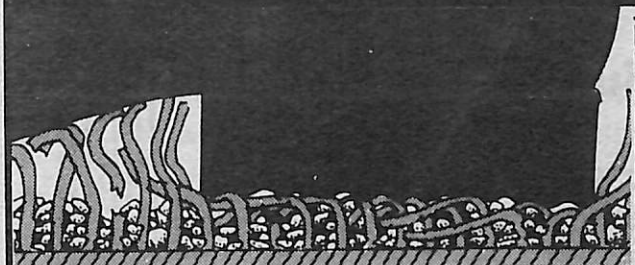
The Historical Association is continuing with the sale of historical gift items as part of its effort to raise funds for the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum. These items will be available on the night of the meeting and will continue to be permanently displayed at the new Fire Station Headquarters and Town Hall.

For further information, call Richard Bellico at 568-9147, ext. 224.

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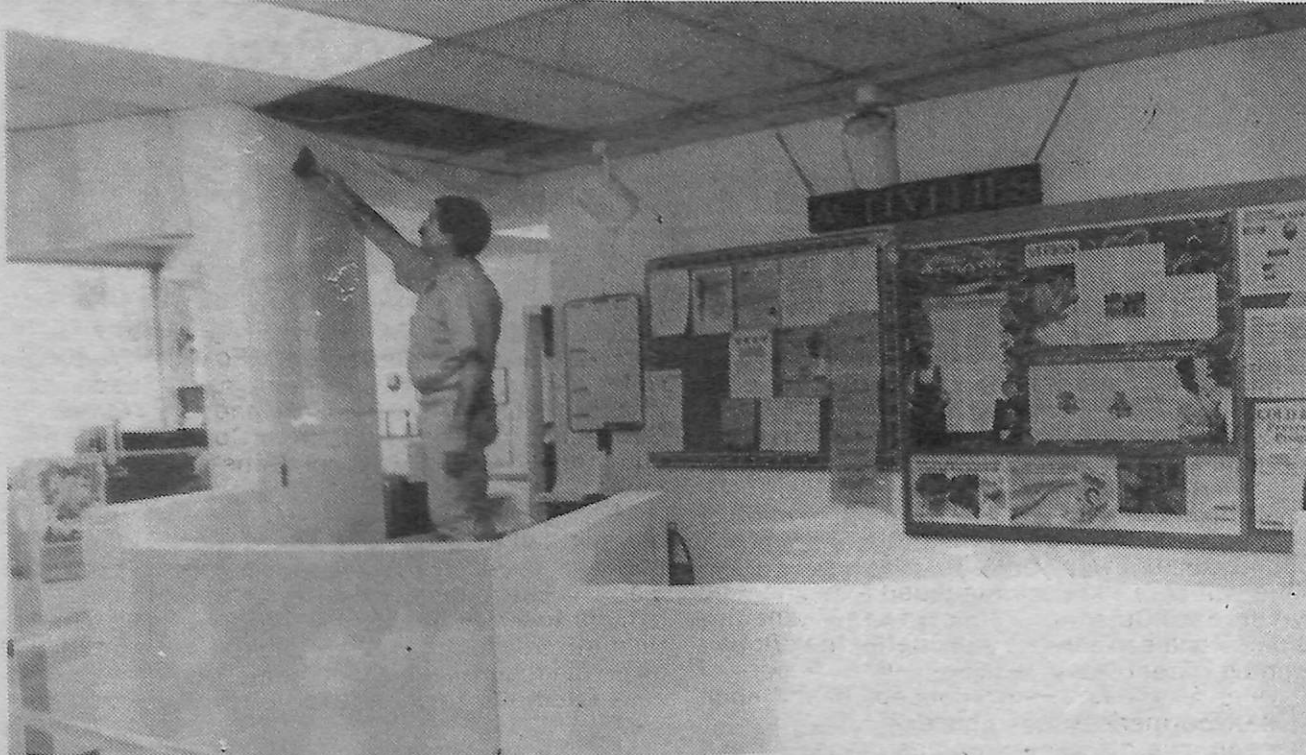
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"Sprucing Up" The Agawam Senior Center...



DAN SULLIVAN of the building maintenance department was recently doing some remodeling work at the Agawam Senior Center. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Community Grange To Hold French Toast Breakfast

Community Grange No. 382 of Feeding Hills will hold a French Toast Breakfast on Sunday, March 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Grange Hall.

The hall is located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills.

The menu will consist of French toast, sausage, juice, coffee, tea, or milk. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12. Reservations can be made by calling 789-2061.

Come to a great homecooked breakfast. The public is invited to attend.

Italian Sporting Club Slates Comedy Show & Pasta/Chicken Buffet

The Italian Sporting Club, Cooper Street, Agawam will host a New York City Comedy Show and Italian Pasta & Chicken Buffet on Thursday, March 26th.

Cost is \$18 per person. Dinner will be served from 7:00-8:15 p.m., with the show from 8:30-10:00 p.m.

Three cruises on the Big Red Boat will be given away as door prizes.

For more information, call Mark Rossi at 746-2688.

NO ONE covers all the hometown news

Italian Women's Club To Be Held Mar. 16th At Storowton Tavern

The March 16th meeting of Springfield's Italian Women's Club will be held at Storowton Tavern, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield.

The meetings are open to all women of Italian heritage (either born Italian or married to an Italian).

For more information, call (413) 783-6579 or (413) 782-4086.

Dinner will be served promptly at 6:30 p.m.

The Heberts Announces Birth Of Daughter, Kelsey Jean

Timothy & Kerry Hebert of Taunton, Mass. are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Kelsey Jean on January 31, 1998 at Morton Hospital and Medical Center.

Kelsey weighed eight pounds, 4 1/4 ounces.

Maternal grandmother is Jeanne C. Campbell of Taunton. Paternal grandparents are Alfred J. & Patricia A. Hebert of Agawam.

Walton Family Announces Birth Of Son, Andrew Charles

Scott & Lynn Walton of Lynnfield, Mass. are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Andrew Charles on February 15th at Salem Hospital.

Grandparents are Lino & Dolores Gatti of Agawam and Robert & Audrey Walton of Rahway, New Jersey.

Agawam Garden Club To Hold First Spring Meeting On Mar. 10th

Charlotte Sulborski, the third generation resident of the same property on North Street, Feeding Hills, will discuss "A Third Generation Garden" at the first spring meeting of the Agawam Garden Club at 7:30 p.m., March 10th, at the Captain Leonard House on Main Street, Agawam.

Ms. Sulborski said she is very attached to the land she was raised on, where her parents Charles & Barbara Sulborski and her grandparents, Bill & Mary Sulborski were farmers and gardeners and there has been ongoing interest in when and how plants grow.

Barbara Sulborski lives with her daughter and does a good part of the gardening, Charlotte said. The natural slope on the property makes gardening interesting, and Charlotte can recall how the gardens have changed over the years. On a stone near the entrance is the wording, "My garden is my Earthly Paradise."

At one time, the Sulborski family owned all the property from the hill on North Street to North Westfield Street.

Guests are welcome to attend the program, which will follow the Garden Club business meeting, for a fee of \$1. There will be refreshments prepared by a committee directed by Linda Lewis and Nancy Smith.

Ms. Sulborski is owner of the Chie Locks Beauty Shop at 660 North Street, and is mother of two small boys, Michael and Joe.

Wanted: Ladies 60 Or Older For Sr. Ctr. Pool Club

The Agawam Senior Center Ladies' Pool Club wants you, whether you are just learning to play or have never picked up a pool stick (cue).

Expert or novice, come join us on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. We guarantee you will have a good time and meet interesting people.

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Church News

Weekly Calendar Of Events From Agawam Congregational Church

This Sunday, March 8th, is the second Sunday in Lent. The Service of Worship continues at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

Rev. Fuller's Sermon will be "Whom Shall I Fear?", taken from Text: Psalm 27:1. The Children's Message will be "Where Can Fears Go?"

This is also Heifer Project Dedication Sunday. All monies collected from the "Arks" will be dedicated prior to the Children's Message.

REMINDER: The Annual Budget Meeting for Agawam Congregational Church will be held this Sunday, March 8th, following the Worship Service.

The Adult Education Class meets each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room. The theme for this Sunday will be "Under God's Wings."

This Sunday, as well as next Sunday, will be led by Neil Ellsworth, Christian Education Committee member. All are welcome to attend.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is macaroni & sauce. Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

A reminder that the Loaves & Fishes program is Monday, March 16th. Meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. to carpool to the Springfield kitchen. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome.

The Board of Deacons of the church will be hosting the Annual Zucco Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, March 8th, at 5:30 p.m. This is a free dinner, with donations being received for scholarships for graduating seniors and those continuing their education who are affiliated with the church.

The program for the evening will feature Julie Collier of "Wingmasters," a licensed raptor and Master Falconer rehabilitator with five birds of prey to speak about.

"A Way Through Lent," a joint Lenten Adult Education Series with the First Baptist Church of Agawam, will begin next week.

The first two sessions are Sunday, March 15th and 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church. The final two sessions, March 29th and April 5th, will be held at the First Baptist Church of Agawam.

The series will be led by Rev. Fuller, Rev. Barnes, and Dan Pender, Youth/Christian Education Director. For more information concerning the series, call the church office.

On Friday, March 13th, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a choral performance by the Defiance College Choral Singers from Ohio. Prior to the program, there will be a Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 p.m.

A free will offering will be taken to defray the choir's travel expenses. Join us for this special evening of fellowship and music.

The Youth Committee and Family Outreach is sponsoring a "Hockey Night" on Friday, March 20th. The cost is only \$6 a ticket and includes parking with your ticket stub.

If you need to carpool, meet at the church parking lot at 6:45 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. game (Falcons vs. Hartford Wolfpack). Interested? Call the church office.

Mark your calendars today! The April One-Day Vacation Bible Camp is Wednesday, April 22nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Campership time is here! Now available: all information pertaining to church camps for your children.

Camps for children from grade three (completed) through high school. Limited space, so register today!

For more information, contact the church office or Dan Pender at the church.

Singers From Defiance College To Perform At Ag. Congregational

The Chamber Singers and Defiance Yellow Jackets, under the direction of Joan Simonis, will be performing at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13th at the Agawam Congregational Church.

These two groups from Defiance, Ohio consist of 43 singers from various majors. The Chamber Singers are a serious group of about 40 singers who will perform fun, sacred, and secular works as well as master works.

The Yellow Jackets are a smaller group of singers who will perform arrangements of vocal jazz and popular styles of music. Defiance College is an independent, co-educational institution related to the United Church of Christ. Chartered in 1850, the college offers 30 majors in undergraduate programs as well as a Master of Arts in Education degree.

The music department at Defiance College currently includes three performing groups which include the Chamber Singers, Yellow Jackets, and the Community Band.

Students may also take private study in guitar, voice, piano, and organ. Future plans include the possibility of adding a minor in music through the Humanities, a pep band, and a women's chorus.

Prior to the performance, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a pot luck supper.

Latest Group Of Children Baptized At St. John's Church

The following children were welcomed into the Christian community at St. John's Church in Agawam through Baptism on Sunday, February 22, 1998: **Sidney Nicole Bryden**, child of Daniel & Laurie; **Zachary Taylor McCarthy**, child of John & June; **Madison Elizabeth Tibbetts**, child of Chris & Jennifer; and **Lindsey Ann Trombley**, child of Susan.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: 8:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m.; **Stations of the Cross:** Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.; Fridays, 4:00 p.m. (children), 7:30 p.m.

You turn our pages every week - AAN!!!

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP PRESERVE AGAWAM'S PAST.

DONATIONS

The Agawam Historical Association is currently raising funds for the renovation of the former Elm Street Fire Station into the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum.

Although we've been very successful in our efforts to date, we still need to raise over \$10,000 in order to meet our goal of \$30,000. Most of the money will be used to construct an addition that will house a wheelchair lift in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The balance will cover other renovations, acquisitions, and operating expenses.

Major contributors will be recognized in the following categories on a plaque in the museum: Chief's Circle (\$1,000+); Captain's Society (\$500-\$999); and Volunteer Society (\$250-\$499). Any size donation will be gratefully accepted.

ARTIFACTS

We've raised over half the money it will cost to renovate the building; we're now ready to begin assembling the collection we hope to house there.

We've already received some generous gifts, including an Agawam Indian basket, an Agawam Gin bottle and other pieces of our history. Books, journals, diaries, letters, identified photos, and other artifacts pertaining to the development and history of Agawam and Feeding Hills are welcome. We are also very interested in fire memorabilia, especially from Agawam. However, we will consider most items of historical significance.

If you have something you would like to donate, please call Agawam Historical Association Archivist Ann Bradford at 786-6835.

SUPPORT

The Agawam Historical Association is a strictly volunteer organization, with meetings held throughout the year. If you are interested in learning about and preserving Agawam's past, please consider becoming a member. A family membership is just \$20.

We also are in need of in-kind services to help with the renovations of the Elm Street Station, especially the help of contractors, carpenters, electricians, and drywall installers. A foundation will also need to be poured for the addition.

Please call Historical Association President Rick Bellico at 568-9147, extension 224 for more information on the Association, membership, or in-kind services.

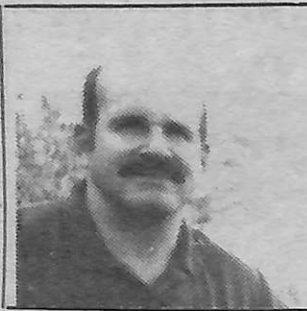
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Agawam Historical Association

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Church News - continued...



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
 Pastor of the Church
 of the Apostles,
 Suffield, CT
 (860) 668-4444 or
 (413) 796-8735

Whom Shall I Fear?

The story is told of a father who placed his young son on the top of a bureau and told him to jump. "Don't worry, daddy will catch you," he assured the trembling lad. Finally, the boy jumped off into his father's waiting hands. But the father withdrew his hands after the boy jumped, and the child fell to the floor.

The father picked up his sobbing son and put him back on the bureau. "Jump," he said, "and this time, daddy will catch you." He jumped again. Again, the father let him fall to the floor.

The father tried it again, but the boy would not jump, regardless of the father's promises. "Good," said the father, "now you know never to trust anyone."

Given enough time and experience, just about everybody we know will eventually let us down. None of us is completely faithful all the time. That's one of the things which makes us human. "To err is human..."

Perhaps our experience with each other is one of the reasons people tend to have difficulty trusting God. We might mistakenly think that God is like us and that He cannot be fully trusted. We've twisted things in our heads; rather than realizing we are made in the image of God, we think God is made in our image.

Our world is sometimes a tough place to live. We have it easy, compared to so many in various parts of the world. When was the last time we ran through sniper fire in order to bring home a bucket of water to our family?

Nevertheless, in varying degrees, our world can be difficult, mostly because of what other people are doing around us or to us. If we are completely dependent upon other people, we have good reason to be nervous. Even the best intentioned people cannot keep all their promises.

However, if we look to God, we can be confident. **The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

When we grasp that God loves us, and we willingly submit to His gracious will for our lives, our fear dissipates. **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.**

This goes well beyond the power of positive thinking. It is not self-delusional. Our confidence and trust in God can and should be based upon a fundamental understanding that God is always faithful, no matter what.

We do not always, if ever, fully comprehend our life's situations. How many times have we thought we had it all figured out, only to realize later we didn't have the first clue?

God knows the whole story, even if we don't. God is already prepared to handle the worst things which can possibly happen to us. **If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.**

God alone can be fully trusted, because God alone is completely faithful. It therefore makes sense for each of us to look to Him in faith.

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble. One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

Even though we are made in the image of God, God is not like us in many ways. One of those ways is that God is entirely trustworthy. God is entirely trustworthy because He is entirely faithful.

Unlike us, He will never fail to keep His promises. There's a bumper sticker which says, "God said it; I believe it; that settles it!"

News & Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Worship hours begins at 10:00 a.m.

The lectionary readings for March 8th, the second Sunday of Lent, will be Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "Waiting for a Miracle." The Lector will be Lani Kretschmar.

Children should attend worship with their parents, leaving at a designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

This Sunday, March 8th, is Open Pantry Sunday. If you are able to bring a bag of groceries or other needed items, please put them on the Open Pantry collection table in the sanctuary. If you are unable to do so, there will be envelopes available on the table for cash donations.

Please feel free to take one. Many thanks to everyone for your continuing support of the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry.

Volunteers are needed to make desserts for the Open Pantry this Wednesday, March 11th. If you are able to make a dessert (brownies, sheet cake, cookies, etc.), please have your contribution to the church kitchen by 12:00 noon on Wednesday.

A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Griswold Hall.

The Board of Christian Education would like to remind everyone that their collection of Pennies for People will continue throughout the season of Lent.

Please contribute to the Sunday School effort to send a physically challenged youth to camp.

The new bulletin board has been set up in Griswold Hall near the kitchen. Please continue to check the calendar there before scheduling any meetings or events.

SEE F.H. CONGREGATIONAL - Page 18...

Rev. Monahan's "Reflections" is a weekly feature of The AAN!!!

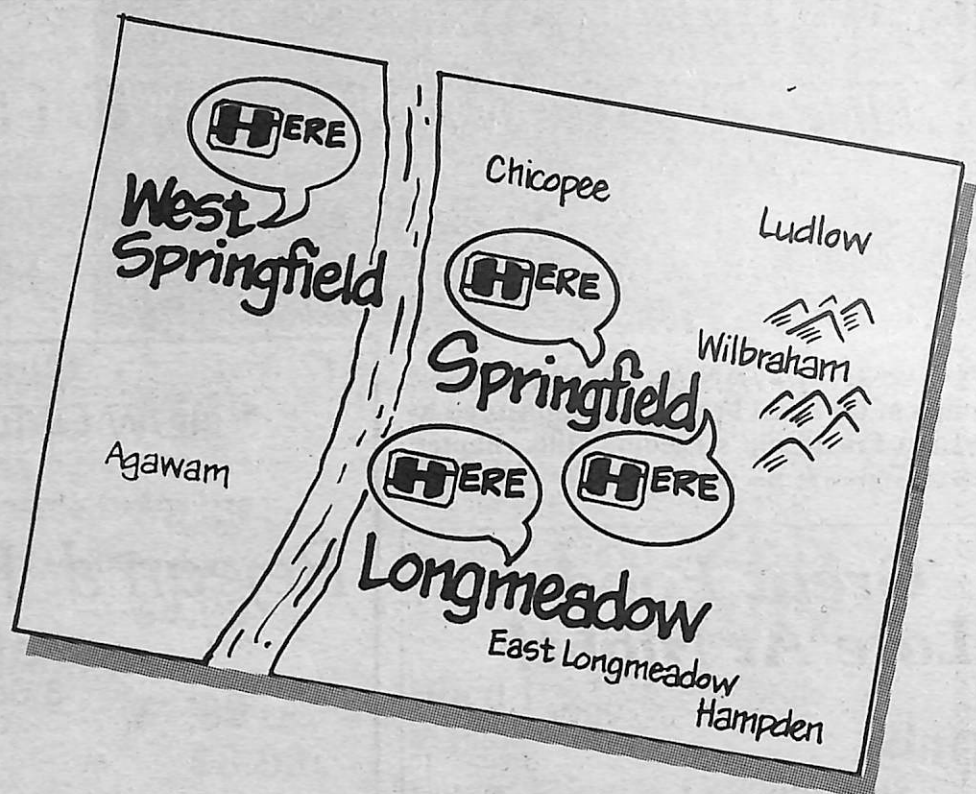
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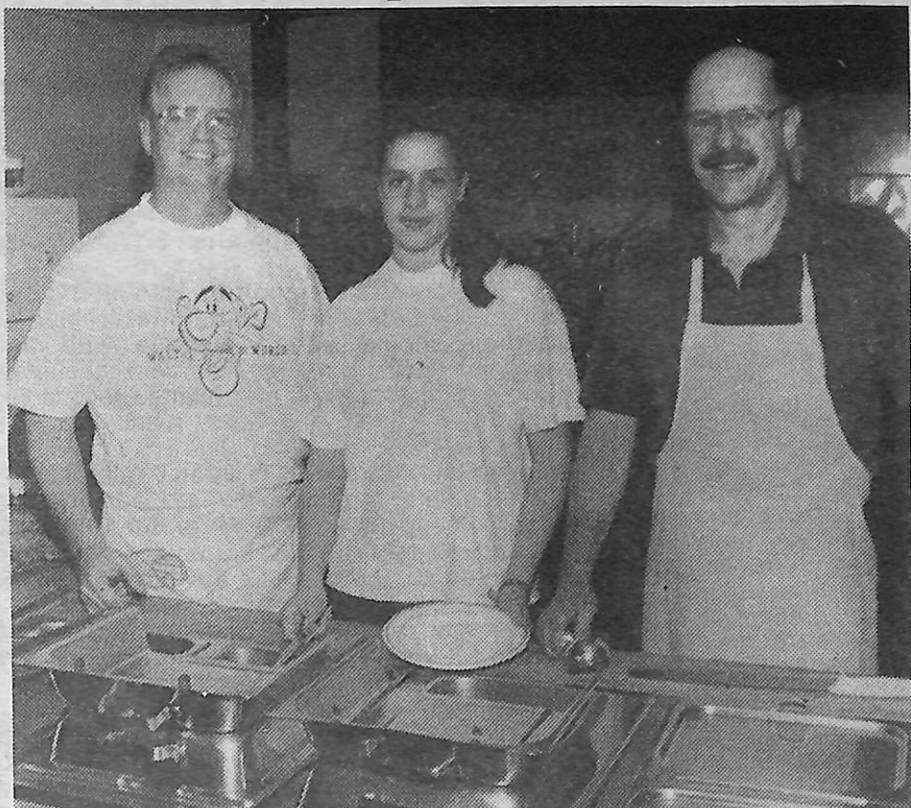
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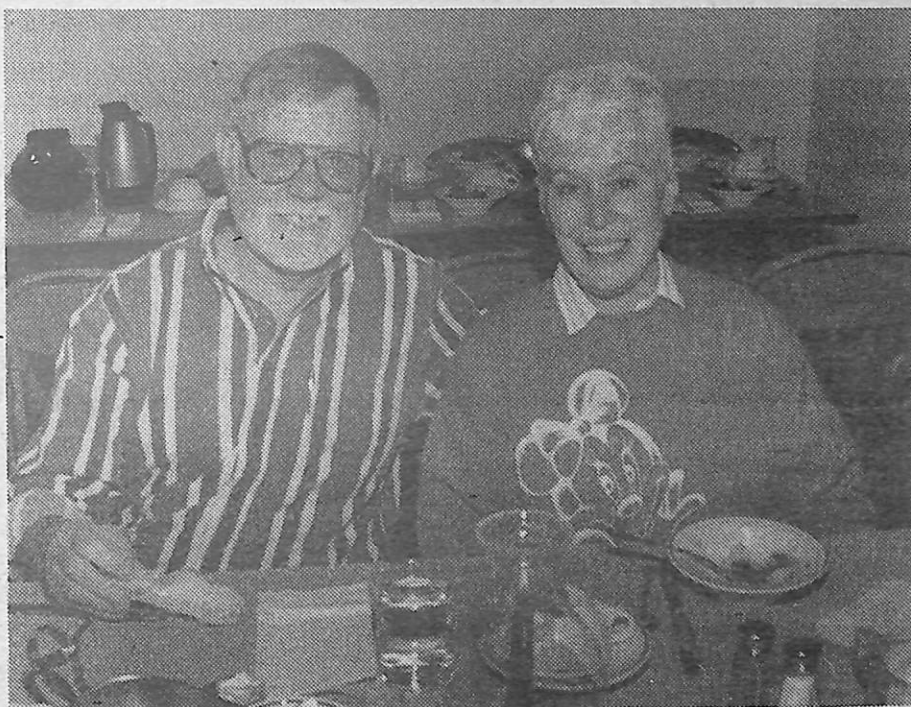
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Church News - continued...

Operation Friendship's Roast Beef Dinner...



JERRY COUTURE, SARAH BATES, AND DAVE BATES were among the kitchen helpers at Operation Friendship's roast beef dinner, which was held at Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



CHARLES H. & JEAN M. STOWERS were all smiles at the roast beef dinner sponsored by Operation Friendship's Feeding Hills chapter. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



NICOLE WHITE AND RYAN WHITE, members of the Feeding Hills chapter of Operation Friendship, were busy at the roast beef dinner at Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

F.H. CONGREGATIONAL - from Page 17...

Also, make sure to indicate any plans your committee makes on the calendar so others may be informed.

ATTENTION — KEYS FOUND: A set of keys was found in the church parking lot on Sunday, March 1st.
Please call 786-5061 to get them back if they belong to you!

On the calendar:

Friday, March 6th: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club.

Sunday, March 8th: 10:00 a.m., Open Pantry Sunday; Junior Choir practice after church.

Monday, March 9th: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts; 7:30 p.m., OF Play practice.

Tuesday, March 10th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Stewardship/Missions.

Wednesday, March 11th: Desserts needed for Open Pantry; 7:00 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Cub Scout Committee.

Thursday, March 12th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

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Boneless Club

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Fresh Ground Chuck

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10 Lbs. Or More \$1.39 Lb.

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Boneless Center Cut Pork

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Church News - continued...

This Week At Ag. United Methodist

The season of Lent awakens in many people a concern for spirituality. One writer calls it "a style of life that keeps one close to God at all times."

Christians and persons of good intent wish that all people would possess and exhibit this lifestyle. The kind of questions that haunt genuine Christians are: "Is this spiritual life something so elusive that we seem sometimes to be so far from possessing it?" "Why does it appear that some persons are so spiritual, and others are not?" "I, myself, how can I become more spiritual?"

The general public seldom asks the question with the same kind of intensity. Rather, we look at our world and we become frightened because of the inconsistencies in human behavior, the lack of concern for one another, the power of greed, as it dominates our whereabouts, the lack of self-control which leads to unnecessary crimes, the victimization of weaker and more vulnerable persons; the exploitation of others less knowledgeable than ourselves, and we say what can we do to improve our community?

The consensus is that there are no easy answers to any of these questions. In fact, it becomes ludicrous that some of those who set out to correct the state decadence, themselves demonstrate the same behavior.

Now, this is where the religion of Jesus comes in. Jesus is saying, "Don't blow the whistle, unless you have first blown it on yourself. Then you will be able to put right what has gone wrong."

The spiritual life has to do with people's willingness to seriously look at themselves without running from themselves when the truth about themselves confronts them.

Consider these two characters. One is Peter. The other is Judas. They were both Disciples of Christ. One betrayed Christ (Judas). The other denied Christ (Peter). On introspection, both are presented with a picture of who he really is, as a person faced with the possibility of making a critical choice.

Peter accepts his failures and seeks rehabilitation. Jesus forgives, reinstates, and commissions him. Through him, many persons are changed, many communities spiritualized. Judas, on the contrary, runs from himself and comes to the saddest end.

During Lent, we will try to answer questions like those stated earlier. We will seek to be more spiritual.

We invite you to join us during our Lenten exercises:

Worship is at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday; Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday; Bible Study will be on Monday at 7:00 p.m.

We are located at 459 Mill Street, Feeding Hills.

Activities At Valley Community Church

Sunday worship, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Valley Community Church, will again prove to be exciting and enriching as Pastor Steve Dennehy shares a message taken from the gospel of Luke 13:31-35.

As the nation of Jerusalem was lost because it wasted its opportunity to be saved, Pastor Steve will explain how God's long-suffering and grace is still available to everyone as He strives to bring about salvation to the world today.

Children's church begins at 10:00 a.m. in Dunn Hall. This worship service is developed just for children and is led by Margie Secora and Lyle Pearsons. Here the children are taught the same lesson as the adult congregation, but geared for their understanding. Nursery care is available throughout the morning.

Coffee and Fellowship time will be reformatted this Sunday as the Youth Group of the church prepare and serve a full brunch. The purpose of this brunch is for them to raise money to support the mission trip to Lancaster, PA. This is their first mission trip out of our area. All Sunday School classes have been cancelled for this Sunday. The Youth Group invites all church members and friends to stay for brunch.

On Monday, March 9th, the **Board of Administration** will hold their monthly meeting. All board members are urged to attend this important meeting.

The **Board of Missions and Social Action** will also hold their monthly meeting on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Various plans for mission work will be discussed and delegated.

Both **Junior and Senior Choirs** will meet on Wednesday, March 11th as they prepare their special music for the Lenten and Easter season. The Junior Choir will meet at 6:15 p.m. and the Senior Choir at 7:00 p.m.

Cub Scout Troop 78, Den 3 will be meeting on Thursday evening at 6:15 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. in Dunn Hall.

The supper crew at the church is getting ready for their monthly **Chicken Supper** which will be held on Saturday, March 14th. Continuous servings are available from 5:00-7:00 p.m. For reservations, please call Shirley at 786-2576 or Jeff at 789-2552. Additional information can be found in a separate article within this paper.

Valley Community Church warmly welcomes anyone who is seeking a church home to visit on Sunday for worship at 9:30 a.m. You will be glad you did and we will be glad to see you! The church is located "high on a hilltop" at 152 South Westfield Street.

News & Notes From Sacred Heart Church

LENTEN DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m., Sacred Heart - Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.
8:30 a.m., Saint John's - Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.
9:00 a.m., Saint Theresa's - Mon., Tues., Wed.
9:00 a.m., Saint Anthony's - Fri., Sat.
7:00 p.m., Saint Anthony's (Thursday only)
7:00 p.m., Saint John's - Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

BAPTISM

Please welcome into our parish family the newly baptized: **Sean Michael Berube, Zaccery Hunter Girard, and Nicholas Maverick Scuderi.** Congratulations to their parents and families.

LENTEN CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sunday, March 22nd, 9:00 a.m. Mass. In need of readers, gift bearers, and greeters. If interested, call Mrs. Benton (786-9835) or Mrs. O'Neill (786-0158).

RUMMAGE SALE

The date for the Rummage Sale to be held in the **Parish Center** has been set for **April 23rd**. We ask that you think of the sale as your get ready for spring. We would be happy to accept the clothing that your family is just tired of or has outgrown. However, please be sure that all items are clean and wearable!

There will also be a "White Elephant" room. More on this later. Most importantly, we will need help the day before the sale as well as that day. If you think you can help, please call **Theresa (786-4966)**.

The date is planned by members of our parish family and all money earned is given to the parish to help support those in the parish who need a helping hand.

** HOCKEY ** HOCKEY ** HOCKEY

Church Night With the Falcons...

It's hockey time again: **Friday, March 20th**, when the Springfield Falcons host their New England rival, the Hartford Wolf-Pack.

Tickets are **\$6 for everyone**. Call early. They go fast! This is a great family fun night, so come and join us.

Call **Kathy Rondinelli (789-1326)** or **Brenda McDade (786-1545)**. The deadline for tickets is **March 14th**.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Children's Stations are held each **Friday afternoon** during Lent at 4:00 p.m. at **St. John's**. (On **Good Friday**, they will be held at **12:00 noon**.)

Stations of the Cross at 8:30 a.m., **Friday at St. Anthony's** before Mass and following the 7:00 p.m. Mass on **Fridays at St. John's**.

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Church News - continued...**“America For Christ” Offering To Be Collected During March At First Baptist**

The Missions Committee at First Baptist Church in Agawam has announced that during the month of March, opportunity will be available to contribute to the “America for Christ” offering. This Baptist fund provides resources for many types of ministries.

Through the offering received in all Baptist churches, American Baptist colleges and seminaries are supported. Also benefiting are camping, ministries, and the development of Christian education materials.

Our goal for the offering is \$600. Plan to be a participant in this important ministry.

On Sunday, March 8th, at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, Pastor Richard Barnes will discuss “Under God’s Wings.” His scriptural reference will be Luke 13:31-35.

Leading the responsive reading will be Raquel Rodriguez. Greeters for the morning will include Nina & Howard Bailey and Claire & Leslie Crouss.

A time of fellowship follows morning worship in Davis Hall; classes are available for all ages until 11:45 a.m.

A special feature beginning this Sunday will be the “Nuts & Bolts” class led by Pastor Barnes. This class is being resumed after a recess; it deals with Baptist beliefs and practices, and is for newcomers to the Baptist faith and also for those

who wish to renew their understanding of the beliefs we hold as American Baptists.

On our calendar this week:

Monday, March 9th: 7:30 p.m., Word Search bible study.

Tuesday, March 10th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlighters bible study; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group; 7:00 p.m., Missions Committee.

Wednesday, March 11th: 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:30 p.m., Church Committee.

Thursday, March 12th: 10:00 a.m., Bell Ringers Rehearsal; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

Saturday, March 14th: 4:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m., Mr. & Mrs. Club Ham & Bean Supper (for reservations, call 786-8609 or 786-8209).

“A Way Through Lent,” a joint study series with the Agawam Congregational Church, will begin on March 15th at the Congregational Church and continue for four consecutive Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m., concluding on April 5th.

The series will be led by Rev. Curt Fuller, Rev. Richard Barnes, and Dan Pender.

The first two meetings will be at the Congregational Church, and the second two meetings will be at the Baptist Church. Come share the journey!

Evening Of Lenten Devotion At St. Anthony’s Church

An Evening of Lenten Devotion will be held at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Maple St., on Tuesday, March 10th from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Our speaker will be Sister Margaret Lynch, S.N.D., Spiritual Director and Retreat Director on the Staff of the Center for Spiritual Life, Springfield Diocese.

She will speak on “HIS PASSION AND MINE.” The Holy Rosary Society of St. Anthony invites all Agawam parishes to attend.

There will be refreshments in the church hall following the program.

Catholic Women To Meet March 9th

The Catholic Women’s Club of Agawam will meet on Monday evening, March 9th in the Parish Center of St. John the Evangelist Church at 7:30 p.m.

Following a brief business meeting, club president Betsy Ciempa will present Debbie Tracy, a certified dance and fitness instructor, who will lead a class in “Moving in Holiness.”

The class promotes exercise and inspiration by dancing to Christian music. So, ladies, wear comfortable clothes and join this “feel good” type of class that offers many benefits through moving, stretching, increasing flexibility, and strength.

Hospitality chairperson is Lorraine Maniscalchi. Guests are welcome to attend.

Ham & Bean Supper At 1st Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Agawam, corner of Main & Elm Sts., invites you to a family-style Ham & Bean Supper on Saturday, March 14th.

The supper will include baked ham, homemade baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, coffee, tea or milk, and assorted homemade pies.

Servings will be at 4:45 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. Cost for adults is \$7, and \$3 for children under 10.

For reservations, please call 786-8609, 786-8209, or 525-2818.

If you are unable to honor your reservation, please call to cancel.

Catholic Women’s Club Slates Giant Tag & Rummage Sale

The Catholic Women’s Club of Agawam will sponsor a giant tag sale/rummage sale in the parking lot of St. John the Evangelist Church on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Any interested vendor can obtain complete information by calling Betsy Ciempa, 786-5160. Spaces will be assigned on a first-come basis.

Nocturnal Adoration To Meet March 6th At Sacred Heart

The Nocturnal Adoration Society of Agawam and West Springfield will meet at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills to conduct and pray the Office of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday, March 6th from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

All are invited to come and spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration.

Corned Beef Dinner Slated At Agawam United Methodist

The Agawam United Methodist Church will host a Corned Beef Dinner on March 21st at 5:00 p.m. Cost for seniors is \$6, children 12 and under, \$3, and all others, \$7.

For a reserved seat, call K&P, 786-3261.

Chicken Supper At Valley Comm. Church

The Supper Committee at Valley Community Church is busy preparing for their next monthly Chicken Supper, which will be held on Saturday, March 14th.

The menu consists of ½ baked chicken, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, two hot vegetables, tossed salad, olives, pickles, cranberry sauce, rolls with butter, and a beverage. You also get

your choice from a wide variety of tempting and delicious desserts. The cost is only \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

Continuous servings are available from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Reservations can be made (and are strongly suggested) by calling Shirley at 786-2576 or Jeff at 789-2552.

The church is located at 152 South Westfield St.

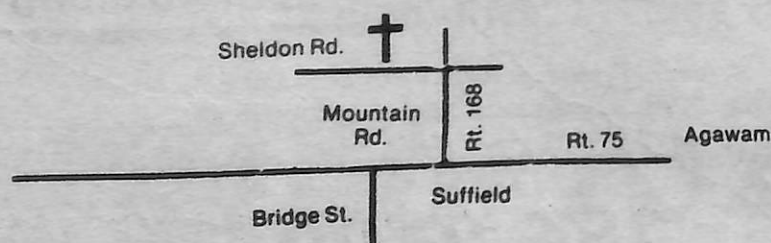
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Spotlight On Business

Legal Memo

by
Alan J. Ferrigno, Esq.
 546 Springfield St., F.H.
 (413) 786-9454



Massachusetts Death Taxes

The concept of taking the transfer of assets at death began in Massachusetts in 1891 with an inheritance tax on "legacies and successions" to non-family members.

In 1907, Massachusetts enacted an inheritance tax for transfers to direct family members. The inheritance tax differed from an estate tax in that the amount of the inheritance tax depended on the beneficiary/heir's relationship to the decedent. The more closely related the heir was to the decedent, the lower the tax.

Massachusetts replaced its inheritance tax with an estate tax. An estate tax taxes the transfer of the decedent's assets at his death. In general, the estate tax is based on the size of the gross estate, not on who the assets are transferred to. There are certain deductions from the estate tax for transfers made to the surviving spouse and to charities.

Massachusetts is in the process of repealing its estate tax and replacing with a sponge tax. The repeal of the estate tax was brought about because a concern that the Massachusetts estate tax had a direct effect on retirees moving to other more tax favorable states, such as Florida. Their move resulted in a loss of revenue in income and sales taxes and other revenues.

Once the Massachusetts gross estate has been determined, the adjusted gross estate is arrived at by deducting the funeral expenses, claims against the estate, outstanding liens, estate administration expenses, losses, and expenses of administering the property not subject to claims.

From the adjusted gross estate, the marital and charitable deductions are subtracted to arrive at the Massachusetts taxable estate. It is the Massachusetts taxable estate that the rates are applied against.

For decedents dying prior to January 1, 1997, there may be a Massachusetts estate tax due. For decedents dying on or after January 1, 1995, there is an exemption of \$500,000. This increases by \$100,000 to \$600,000 for decedents dying on or

after January 1, 1996.

This exemption is a threshold to taxation. If the estate exceeds \$500,000 for a decedent who dies in 1995, the threshold disappears and the entire estate, less any available deductions, is subject to estate tax. The estate tax is computed either by (i) the tax table in M.G.L.A. c. 65C section 2(a) or (ii) 20 percent of the amount by which the Massachusetts net estate exceeds begins at 5 percent and increases to a maximum of 16 percent. The estate tax which is due is the lower of those amounts.

There is a lien for the payment of Massachusetts estate taxes on the decedent's gross estate. **THIS LIEN ATTACHES AUTOMATICALLY** to any Real Estate in which the decedent had an interest, **EVEN REAL ESTATE** jointly held, thus, if one joint owner dies, the surviving joint owner takes the real property subject to the estate tax lien which must be released to clear title even if there are no estate taxes due.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

A Business To Remember...

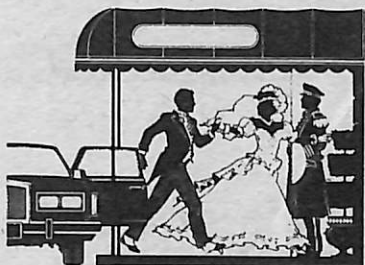


"FORGET ME NOT," a consignment shop for women's fashions and accessories that opened last year in Feeding Hills Center, is owned and operated by Agawam resident Carol Nemes. The boutique is located next to the Feeding Hills Post Office and Carol is always available to help. Stop in today. **RELATED PHOTOS ON NEXT PAGE.** Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon...

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Mon. - Tues. - Wed. 9-4
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Open To All Who Live Or Work In Agawam



Spotlight On Business - continued...

You Won't Forget, *Forget Me Not*



CAROL NEMES OF AGAWAM last year opened "Forget Me Not," a consignment shop for women's fashions and accessories in Feeding Hills Center (located next door to the Feeding Hills Post Office). Carol is pictured in photo right and Jean Zucco is pictured in photo left. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

You turn our pages for all the local news!

Dr. Michael Haynes

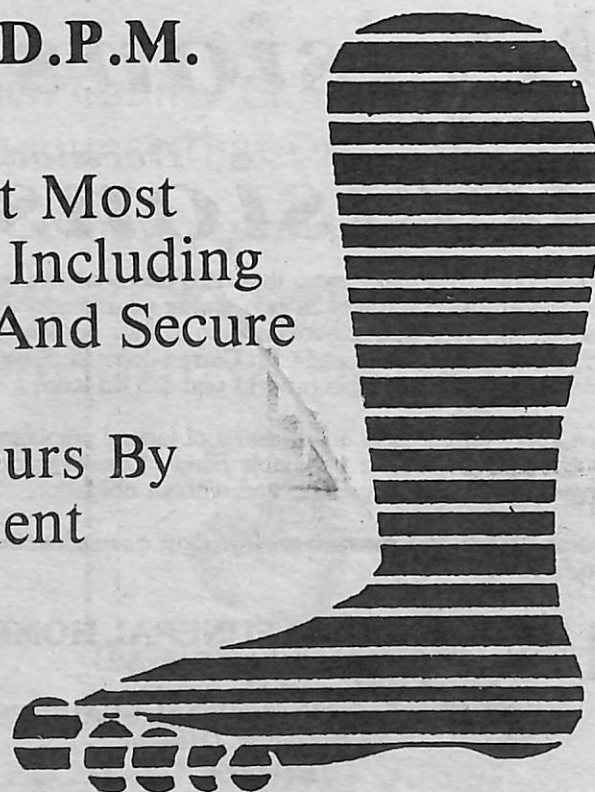
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Spotlight On Business - continued...



LINDA M. SAMOLEWICZ

Linda M. Samolewicz Named Asst. VP By Westfield Bank

Linda M. Samolewicz of Chicopee has been elected an Assistant Vice President of Westfield Bank, it was announced by Bank President, Donald A. Williams.

Ms. Samolewicz joined the Bank in 1995 and has served as a Mortgage Officer since that time. She is a graduate of Northampton High School and Westfield State College. She has also completed numerous courses in home financing and has attended the Massachusetts School of Financial Studies.

An active participant in both professional and community organizations, Ms. Samolewicz served as the Bank's 1997 United Way coordinator. Under her direction, the '97 Fund Drive proved to be the most successful in the Bank's history.

Best local news...

PIONEER Group's Web Site Offers Housing Information

Need a glossary of real estate firms? Want to shop for houses from the comfort of home? Looking for mortgage information? You can find all of this, and much more, on **The PIONEER Group's** site on the World Wide Web.

Company Principals, Raymond Rose and Donald Thompson, claims that it is one of the easiest web sites to tour in the real estate industry. Last October, Gary Lucia was promoted as its company's Internet Administrator.

"As Exclusive Buyer's Agents, we firmly believe that it is critical to service our clients with the highest levels of professionalism and care. Our web site allows our current clients, and any new clients, to shop for houses at their convenience. Also, we have complete information regarding school systems and town demographics available," Rose stated.

"Not only are we extremely pleased with the way that Gary designed our site, we are very proud of the fact that we just won our fourth national award for our web site's content and design," Thompson added.

Home buyers will also find complete information regarding the benefits of using an Exclusive Buyer's Agent to purchase their home, mortgage pre-approval guidelines, mortgage workshop updates, and much more.

The web address is www.pioneer-group.com.

The PIONEER Group is the largest real estate firm throughout Western Massachusetts that represents home buyers exclusively. As Buyer's Agents, they morally, legally, and ethically represent home buyers only, and, as opposed to most other real estate firms that represent both buyers and sellers, by representing buyers only, today's home buyer can be assured that there will never be a conflict of interest in their transaction and there are no out of pocket fees for the home buyer when they use the services of **The PIONEER Group**.

For more information, please e-mail them by using their web site ... or simply call 731-6800.

*Please remember
Jack Devine needs
at least 48 hours
notice to cover your
event. Call Jack at
789-0053. Thanks.*



BRUCE A. WARSAW

Bruce A. Warsaw Appointed Sr. VP By Westfield Bank

Bruce A. Warsaw of Westfield, formerly Vice President and Loan Officer with Westfield Bank has been elected Senior Vice President by the Bank's trustees, according to President Donald A. Williams.

Warsaw joined Westfield Savings Bank as a Vice President in 1991, following several years of commercial banking experience with other area financial institutions. He is a graduate of Western New England College and the Graduate Senior Officers Lending School at Indiana University.

An active participant in both professional organization and community groups, Warsaw is a former Director of the American Institute of Banking, former Governor of Robert Morris Associates and Past President of the Westfield Chamber of Commerce.

He is a Director of the Westfield Chapter of the American Red Cross and a member of the Fundraising Committee for the Greater Springfield Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Decisions. Decisions. Decisions.

Your loved ones may make more than 120 decisions related to your funeral—most in the first 24 hours after your death. Fortunately, there's a way to avoid adding to their burden of grief. It's called preplanning, and with Curran-Jones & Family Considerations®, it's a simple process you can do today.

To learn about all the facts and benefits of funeral preplanning, call us today. You'll receive a valuable *Family Considerations® Planning Guide*—absolutely FREE and without obligation.

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Experience To Work For You*



Patricia Pryor

For Your Health



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Kids Are Natural Cooks!

When it comes to cooking, kids are naturals. Says Chef Andy Husbands, owner of Tremont 647 in Boston, "Kids have an innate curiosity about cooking, and childhood is the perfect time to bring them into the kitchen and teach them cooking skills."

But should parents risk flour-dusted counters and food-spattered floors? "Most definitely," says Husbands, who volunteers for Share Our Strength's Operation Frontline, a nutrition, healthy cooking, and food budgeting program for low-income adults and children. "When you teach your kids to cook, you give them skills that will help them every day for the rest of their lives." These days kids find themselves in need of simple cooking skills sooner than later.

Today, 70 percent of families are headed by parents who work outside of the home. If mom and dad are not home, kids with culinary know-how can whip up simple, nutritious snacks for themselves and their younger siblings. They can even help out by getting dinner started. For those precious moments when family members find themselves home, getting kids into the kitchen is a great way to spend time together.

Another plus to venturing into the kitchen is that cooking can reinforce subjects children learn at school. Cooking allows kids to practice math by measuring and working with fractions; to improve language skills by reading recipes; learn science firsthand; and follow directions.

Also, cooking introduces kids to the basics of nutrition. "If you want kids to eat well, you have to teach kids what nutritious ingredients are and how to use them to create a food that tastes good," says Chef Paul Sussman, the father of two children and owner of Daddy-O's in Cambridge, Massachusetts. What better place to discuss healthy food with your children than in the kitchen!

When defining healthy foods, Sussman and registered dietitian Diane Krol, nutrition education specialist with New England Dairy and Food Council agree. Choosing healthy foods is easy

when you select from the five food groups: milk, meat, fruits, vegetables, and grains. According to Krol, eating the recommended number of servings from each group will provide you with the 40 or so nutrients recommended for good health like calcium from the milk group to Vitamin A from vegetables.

Says Krol, "The food groups make meal planning easy. Try to eat at least three food groups at breakfast and four food groups at lunch and dinner. Aim for a minimum of two food groups to make a nutritious snack."

Both Husbands and Sussman concur that when you cook with kids, keep it simple. Also, remember to be clean and careful. For example, wash your hands with warm soap and water, read the recipe, and collect the ingredients before you begin. Use caution with sharp objects and electrical equipment. Keep the kitchen clean. Wipe up spills as you go.

"It doesn't have to be fancy. It is just the fact that the kids did something," says Sussman. "Parents should look for recipes that let kids get their hands in the preparation." He recommends choosing foods kids like when you start in the kitchen. After you've had a few successes, introduce new foods for the kids to learn about and prepare.

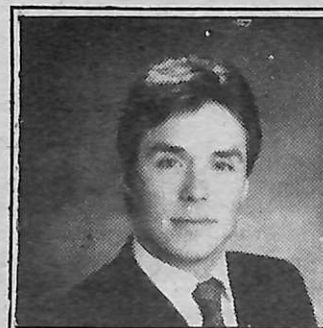
Says Husbands, "You have to go in there with the attitude that this is going to be fun!" If you are having a great time, so will your kids; the rewards you both walk away with are immeasurable.

As a busy restaurateur and parent, Sussman knows the value of spending time with kids. He recommends getting in the kitchen at least once or twice a week just to have some time together. "Sharing meals is terrific, but if you can cook together, you prolong the time you have as a family."

Of his volunteer work teaching cooking classes for children, Husbands says, "It's rewarding to see kids make something that is good for them and tastes good, too. It really improves a child's sense of self-worth."

So, venture into the kitchen with your kids today. Bring along some favorite foods and recipes. But most of all, bring along your sense of fun. Your children will pick up your cues and who know what will happen! You might create a delicious meal and memorable family moments.

Note: For those who prefer organized lessons that teach kids to cook, New England Dairy and Food Council is offering a new program, *Cooking with Kids*. Perfect for schools, community organizations, and after-school programs, *Cooking with Kids* includes 15 activities, tips for meal-planning and shopping, recipes, and cooking hints. The program may be purchased for \$13.50 from New England Dairy and Food Council. For more information, call 1-800-939-0002.



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

After An Accident, A Chiropractic Checkup Is Essential!

Too many people who have been in an accident or suffer trauma don't receive chiropractic care. That's a big reason why over half of accident victims never completely recover from their injuries and may live on pain killers, physical therapy, or even repeated surgery for years. Sometimes they're told that they'll have to live in pain for the rest of their lives!

Because nearly any physical force radiates to the skeletal system, and can cause spinal nerve stress, a chiropractic spinal checkup is essential after an accident. Chiropractic care may make the difference between true recovery, healing, and strength or lingering pain, sickness, and disability.

It must be emphasized that chiropractic never opposes necessary care. In emergencies, the first order of business is always controlling life-threatening situations such as hemorrhage, fractures, contusions or abrasions, shock, and the like. That is the specialty of emergency medicine.

Medical practitioners are not trained to locate and correct vertebral subluxation and resulting spinal nerve stress. As a result, millions of accident victims are not fully restored to health.

That is a big reason why so many people say, "I haven't felt right since the accident," and why they may continue to suffer for months, years, or even decades afterwards.

Anyone who has been in an accident, even if there are no obvious symptoms, should get a chiropractic checkup. The damage from spinal nerve stress may take months or years to surface, and a simple spinal checkup could save an accident victim from much pain and illness later.

If you've had an accident, call the SCHLAFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE, 192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, tel. no. (413) 789-1369. We care about you!

* * *

NANCY DELL'S column, "Food for Thought," is a regular feature of The Agawam Advertiser News... Please remember — our deadline is each Tuesday at 12 noon

* * *

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Hampden County Chiropractic is proud to announce that Dr. Tami Nelson

is now a provider for
Kaiser Permanente/
Community Health Plan



Dr. Tami Nelson
Hampden County Chiropractic
850 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
786-4820

For Your Health - continued...

Warning Signs Of Child Abuse & Neglect

Please note that there are many warning signs of child abuse and neglect, but no single factor is necessarily conclusive.

It's the combination of warning signs that should cause one to be concerned. An abused and/or neglected child generally:

- * Displays welts or other skin injuries.
- * Wears dirty or inappropriate clothes for the weather.
- * Appears unwashed and unclean.
- * Exhibits severely abnormal eating habits.
- * Begs or steals food.
- * Shows extreme behavior, i.e., is unusually aggressive or destructive, or extremely passive and withdrawn, or may cry excessively, or else shows no response to pain or pleasure.
- * Acts unusually adultlike or exactly the reverse.
- * Seems unduly afraid of parents.
- * Is often tired and without energy.
- * Is consistently unpleasant and hard to get along with, or overly demanding and always a source of trouble.
- * Is habitually absent from or late to school (often because the parent waits for physical evidence of abuse to disappear).
- * Engages in frequent vandalism, sexual misconduct, or use of alcohol or drugs.
- * Shows severely retarded physical or mental growth.

SIGNS OF AN ABUSING PARENT:

- * Seems to trust no one.
- * Refuses or else offers farfetched or contradictory explanations about his or her child's injuries.
- * Reacts extremely to child's injuries by either overreacting (becomes hostile when questioned) or underreacting (seems unconcerned about child's condition).
- * Reacts with excessive impatience to child's crying.
- * Seldom touches or looks at child.
- * Lacks control.
- * Expects or demands behavior beyond child's years.
- * Appears isolated from normal human relationships such as friends, family, relatives, neighbors, and community groups.
- * Appears to be misusing alcohol, or drugs.
- * Can never be located.

This message is brought to you by the Agawam Junior Women's Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the GFWC of Massachusetts.

Cancer Support Group Has Weekly Meetings At Mercy Hospital

Persons with cancer, their families, and friends are invited to attend Mercy Hospital's Cancer Support Group. Meetings are conducted Mondays, 7:00 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center, and are free of charge.

The group offers information on topics of interest to cancer patients, and provides an opportunity to share experiences in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings are facilitated by Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., of Mercy's Pastoral Care Department.

For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453.

Blood Drive To Be Held At Second Baptist On March 9th

Suffield: The American Red Cross will hold a **Blood Drive** at the Second Baptist Church, 100 North Main Street (Rt. 75) in Suffield on **Monday, March 9th from 1:30-6:00 p.m.**

With the help of all eligible donors in our community, the Red Cross can continue to maintain a stable blood supply for Connecticut hospitals.

Make an appointment for you and a friend to donate blood by calling 1-800-448-3543.

"For Your Health" is another reason why you turn our pages each & every week.

Applications Are Available For Senior Pharmacy Program

The Senior Pharmacy Program continues in 1998. The Senior Pharmacy Program is a new pharmacy assistance program for elder residents in Massachusetts enacted under the Improved Access to Health Care Act.

It was established by the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) in 1997 and is administered by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in cooperation with DMA. Funding for this \$30 million program comes from cigarette tax revenues.

Through the Senior Pharmacy Program, eligible elder residents may receive up to \$750 per year to help them pay for prescription drugs in all Therapeutic Classes except those excluded from MassHealth. Insulin and disposable syringes with needles are also included in the SPP benefit.

To be eligible for this program, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- * Must be a resident of Massachusetts for the past six months
- * Must be age 65 or over
- * Cannot be enrolled in the Medicaid Program
- * Cannot have drug coverage from a supplemental insurance policy, HMO plan, or any other third party payor
- * Must have a gross annual income no greater than \$11,844 per year (couples apply individually).

The annual enrollment fee of \$15 is deducted from the benefit. Copayment amounts at the time of prescription purchases are \$3 for generic drugs and certain medical supplies, and \$10 for brand name drugs and certain medical supplies.

Applications are available at the Agawam Senior Center. Those who need help or have questions concerning an application may call the Senior Center to set up an appointment with Trudy, the SHINE representative.

For more information, call the Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242 or 243.

Drug, Alcohol Support At Providence Hosp. On Wednesday Nights

Providence Hospital offers a weekly support group for parents of children with drug or alcohol abuse problems. The group meets Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the hospital, 1233 Main St.

The meetings provide an opportunity for parents whose children are currently involved with substance abuse, or have been in the past, to share ideas on how to deal with the problem. There is no charge for the sessions.

The substance abuse services of Providence Hospital are part of Sisters of Providence Behavioral HealthCare (SPBHC). For information on the support group, call Karen Walsh Pio, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., Administrator, SPBHC Outpatient Substance Abuse Services; or Bob Pisani, M.S., Coordinator, SPBHC Adolescent Intensive Day Treatment Services, (413) 493-2032.

Benefit Dance Sponsored By Larson Foundation

The Annual Benefit Dance to Assist Survivors of Homicide, sponsored by the Daniel A. Larson Foundation, will be held at Adelphia's Restaurant on Route 202 in South Hadley on Saturday, March 7th, from 7:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight.

Entertainment will be provided by Ross "The Boss" McDonald from Rock 102 and Blue Moon Productions. Admission is \$10 per person and includes hot hors-d'oeuvres, snacks, and desserts.

Tickets will be available at the door, or may be purchased in advance by calling Chuck & Nancy Larson, 532-4604; George & Lois Anne Maharne, 782-9153; or George & Dee Ziegert, 786-9443.

Any individual or area business who would like to make item or gift certificate donations to be used as raffle prizes at the benefit, or donations of baked goods or other food items, should contact the Larsons, the Maharnes, or the Ziegerts at the above telephone numbers.

NO ONE covers all the local news like us, each week!!!

Fundraiser For Epilepsy Awareness On Sat., March 7th

The Western Mass. Epilepsy Awareness Committee will host its annual fundraising event to be held March 7th at Chez Josef located on Shoemaker Lane.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow at 7:00 p.m. D.J. Rocco Productions will provide the entertainment. The committee will also be hosting its second annual "Exclusive Silent Auction."

Millicent T. Kelly RD., LD., from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland will be honored for her long-standing commitment for keeping the Ketogenic Diet alive for the many children who suffer with difficult-to-control seizures.

She has dedicated the last 50 years of her life perfecting a diet which has made the difference between a child having numerous seizures to being completely seizure-free.

Donations are \$25 per person. All proceeds benefit the Boston Children's Hospital—Epilepsy Unit, The Epilepsy Association of MA, and the Pediatric Neurology Dept. of Baystate Medical Center.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND EPILEPSY AND TO FIND A CURE!

For more information, call Carol Pietroniro at 786-9452, Kim Martel at 786-1169, or Sue Hearn at 789-1529.

Hearing Screening At Ag. Senior Center

Mercy Hospital's Weldon Mobile Hearing Center will conduct free hearing screenings and hearing aid checks at the Agawam Senior Center on Monday, March 16th at 9:00 a.m.

In addition, full diagnostic hearing tests, evaluations, fittings, sales and service of hearing aids, and assistive-listening devices, can be scheduled on a fee-for-service basis.

The hearing van's audiology equipment is operated by nationally certified audiologists from the Weldon Hearing Center at Mercy Hospital.

For a reservation, call the Agawam Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242.

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Do you want to throw away your Federal Tax Deposit coupons?

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If your business makes more than \$50,000 in federal tax deposits yearly, you may be required to pay electronically. Call EFTPS Customer Service for information on deadlines.

For Your Health - continued...



**Chiropractic
Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson**
Chiropractic
Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

The Importance Of Physical Fitness...

The other day I was reminded again of how important it is to keep your body in good shape on a regular basis and prevent problems from occurring.

I was looking through some x-rays of patients and shocked at how poor the health of their spines were. The joints were degenerated, the bones out of alignment, and the overall posture was poor.

I thought to myself, "If only I had seen these spines before they got to be this bad, it wouldn't be taking so long for their bodies to heal now."

Prevention is very important to a chiropractor. It is much easier to keep a spine functioning and preventing problems than it is to fix the problems once they've occurred. It's like working with an old car; it's much easier to keep it moving by taking care of it than trying to fix it once it's broken.

So how do you prevent problems from happening? Here are some suggestions:

Exercise. Keep the joints and muscles functioning by maintaining a regular exercise program. Walking is still a great all-around aerobic conditioner. Stretching is also important in order to keep the spine flexible and supple.

Eat correctly. Food is so important in our diet. Eat wholesome, natural foods and keep away from the junk. Remember, GIGO (garbage in, garbage out).

Keep your weight down. Any extra puts pressure on the spine.

Good posture. Poor posture fatigues the spine quicker and leads to injury soon.

Good work and home habits. Lift correctly, wear good supportive shoes, and utilize a quality mattress for starters.

Chiropractic care. Keep the spine functioning on a regular basis by getting it checked periodically. Don't wait for problems to occur; prevent them from happening now.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, 786-4820.

**Kaitlin Morgan Is
Youth Ambassador
For March Of Dimes**

Laurie Schebel is proud to announce her daughter, Kaitlin Morgan, was named Youth Ambassador of the March of Dimes for the year 1997-1998. Kaitlin is the granddaughter of Patricia A. and the late Carl J. Schebel of Agawam.

Kaitlin was born with a birth defect and spent many months in the neonatal intensive care unit at Baystate Medical Center. The March of Dimes was instrumental in helping to establish the NICU by helping fund discoveries of scientists, among many other major milestones in the fight for the health of our nation's babies.

The March of Dimes each year has many fundraisers, such as The Walk America held each year in April.

**Free Diabetic
Educational Series
At Mercy Hospital**

Newly diagnosed diabetics will benefit from a four-part educational series being conducted in March at Mercy Hospital.

The free series will take place March 9th-12th, 2:30-3:30 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center at the hospital, 299 Carew St. Sessions will provide an introduction to diabetes, dietary guidelines, a review of diabetes medications, and an overview of complications related to the condition.

Registration is required; call Mercy Hospital's Patient Education Department, (413) 748-9024, and leave your name and telephone number.

"For Your
Health"
is another
reason why
you turn
our pages!



KAITLIN MORGAN

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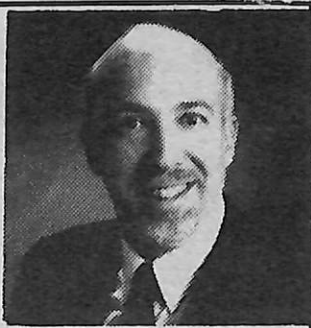
786-2211

**360 Springfield Street
Agawam**

For Your Health - continued...

Managing YOUR STRESS

by Dr. Stephen Sobel
M.S., S.M.C.



Success Phrases To Help You Through All Phases

I have listed the phrases that, over the years, I've thought very highly of. Many are geared to give you fortitude, courage, confidence, and the encouragement to follow your own dreams.

These phrases can create miraculous momentum.

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." - Eleanor Roosevelt.

"This is just the beginning." - Saul Sobel.

"Fall seven times, stand up eight." - Unknown.

"A journey of a thousand leagues begins with one very small step." - Unknown.

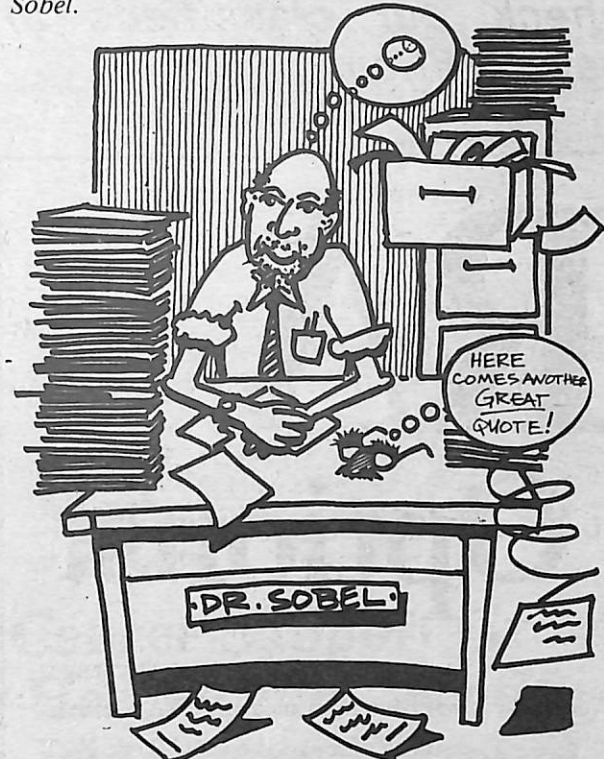
"Your eyes are the mirror of your soul." - Dr. Steve Sobel.

"It is a fact that your project what you are." - Unknown.

"You're seldom as good as you think you are ... and never as bad as you're afraid you are." - Unknown.

"Your thoughts determine your destiny and desire." - Dr. Steve Sobel.

"Your ideas are the most important thing." - Saul Sobel.



"We have 50 million reasons to fail, but not a single excuse." - Unknown.

"Let others know who you are and that you care; miracles will follow." - Dr. Steve Sobel.

"Live all you can. It's a mistake not to." - Unknown.

"We must not only give what we have, but what we are." - Unknown.

"If you don't know where you're going, you'll probably end up somewhere else." - Unknown.

"It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out. It's the grain of sand in your shoe." - Unknown.

"Many things I've worried about; few ever happened." - Mark Twain.

"The world owes you nothing. It was here first." - Unknown.

"Envy is the enemy of growth." - Unknown.

"Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently." - A sage.

Free Chronic Pain Support Group At Mercy Hospital

The Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at Mercy Hospital sponsors a free Chronic Pain Support Group for sufferers, their families, and friends.

The next meetings will be conducted March 10th and 24th, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in room 224 of the Weldon Center, 233 Carew St.

The group is led by Glenn Fagen, Ph.D., a clinical neuropsychologist at the Weldon Center. Dr. Fagen will discuss new technologies, theories, and treatments for chronic pain; participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and learn pain management techniques.

For more information, call Dr. Fagen, (413) 748-6996.

Body Pump:

It's Simple, It's Effective, It's Here!

By Carmela Kirk, R.N.
Fitness First Fitness Consultant

Body Pump is a revolutionary new group exercise program that utilizes the benefits of anaerobic exercise and combines it with the motivation of group exercise. It is a fully body resistance training workout done in the aerobic studio.

We know the components of a complete workout include aerobic, walking, swimming, biking, combined with anaerobic, resistance or weight training, muscle toning, building. We know aerobic exercise is essential for the health of your heart and lungs.

But did you know many studies have shown anaerobic exercise burns more calories, thus more fat, than aerobic exercise? Anaerobic exercise also builds muscle strength and mass, strengthens bones, and causes you to burn more calories even at rest.

While aerobic exercise uses oxygen to create energy, anaerobic exercise causes your body to create the energy without oxygen. It actually causes small tears in the muscle, which causes your body to heal itself, thereby building the muscle. This is the reason we recommend doing resistance training every other day, to give your body that day to heal itself.

Body Pump is a revolutionary exercise concept that works every major muscle group in the body. The complete athletic workout strengthens, tones, and defines muscle like nothing else can. Appealing to men and women, Body Pump is ideal for beginners right through to experienced exercisers.

To increase intensity, Body Pumpers simply add weight to the barbells. It lasts 45-60 minutes. Fitness First has awesome instructors providing safe, supervised, motivating weight training exercise.

Fitness First prides itself in being the first club in Massachusetts to offer this innovative, effective, fun program. Come in or give us a call to find out for yourself. What have YOU got to lose?

Support Groups And Course At Noble Hospital

SUPPORT GROUPS

Stroke Support Group: Wednesday, March 18th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from stroke and their support persons. The topic at this meeting will be, "What is a Stroke?"

Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, March 24th, 1:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to all suffering from diabetes and their support persons. Dr. Kelly D. Burek will speak at this meeting about foot care and the diabetes patient.

PROGRAMS/COURSES:

CPR Course: Two-part course — Wednesdays, March 18th and 25th, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (both evenings). In the Education Department/Ground Floor of Noble Hospital.

This course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant certification. Cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call the Noble Hospital Education Department at (413) 568-2811, ext. 5914.

SMOKING CESSATION - "Forgetting Cigarettes: Mondays, April 6th and 13th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (both evenings). In Conference Room A of Noble Hospital.

This two-part program utilizes hypnosis to eliminate your desires for smoking and allow you to forget cigarettes forever. Presented by Joe Barako, R.N. and Certified Hypnotherapist.

The registration fee is \$40 and is paid the evening of the first session. Seating is limited, and pre-registration is required.

To pre-register or for more information, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

For all the hometown news, you turn our pages — AAN!!!

★ ★ ★

Cancer Support Center To Promote "RIBBON OF HOPE" Project

The Community Center for Cancer Support, located at 430 Main Street, Agawam, is in its second year of serving Hampden and Hampshire counties as a drop-in or call-in support center for cancer patients, family members, and caregivers.

Part of its mission is to spread awareness of the need for community-based cancer support services.

CCCS is also a member of a national cancer coalition which has initiated a project called the "RIBBON OF HOPE." CCCS plans to introduce the program locally over the coming months to promote awareness and fundraising for its cancer support center.

The "RIBBON OF HOPE" project is a travelling work-in-progress around the country, an official length of gold "Ribbon of Hope" ribbon is sent to participating organizations like CCCS and each ribbon length is signed by anyone who wants to indicate their support of the growing cancer survivorship movement and/or a loved one with cancer. Each length of ribbon holds approximately 200 signatures and comes with an official signing roster and a certificate of participation.

Individual lengths of the "Ribbon of Hope," once filled with signatures, are returned to the national coalition which will configure the ribbon lengths in a gigantic gold-ribbon radiant sunburst and display it nationally in Washington, D.C., where it will stand as a lasting legacy of hope to cancer survivors. As importantly, it will be in prominent view of the nation's legislators who need a constant reminder that cancer support and research require additional funding and priority at the national level.

The national coalition's director, Ellen Stovall, and its president, Elizabeth Johns Clark, share the same sentiment about the "Ribbon of Hope" project. "The significance of Ribbon is compelling as it travels throughout the country. It will call attention to the survivorship movement in a highly visible, hope-filled way. It will stand as a lasting legacy of hope to cancer survivors."

CCCS will make Ribbons available for signing in two ways, beginning immediately. First, the public may add a personal or short note in memory of or in honor of a loved one who is coping with cancer or one who has already lost the dreaded battle with cancer.

This can be done at CCCS on Wednesday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; a quick phone call in advance will allow for a picture-taking session if desired, call (413) 821-6990. A donation is suggested at each signing in any amount that is comfortable for the signer(s). Any donation, whether very modest or very generous, is appreciated.

Secondly, the business community is invited to participate by gathering donations and signatures from its employees, customers, and associates which will create a unique ribbon length dedicated to that company's name. A suggested donation of \$100 minimum would apply to each company that participates in acquiring up to 200 signatures per individual ribbon length.

CCCS will pay for the acquisition and ordering of the "Ribbon of Hope" kit from the national coalition. Costs will be offset by the suggested donations; remaining proceeds will directly benefit the programs and services of the local CCCS center.

Anyone interested in sponsoring an individual, family, or business signing event for the "Ribbon of Hope" project, please call CCCS at (413) 821-6990 or stop in our Thrift Shop or the Cancer Center at 430 Main Street, Agawam.

Thousands of signatures have already been acquired nationally, including that of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in remembrance of her mother-in-law who died of cancer. CCCS believes the "Ribbon of Hope" to be a wonderful project for our local community to embrace as a means of forwarding our hopes and expectations for cancer support and survivorship to the national level in honor of over 30,000 cancer patients and 120,000 family units/friends in 22 cities locally who are coping with cancer this year.

Says a CCCS spokesperson locally, "We are here everyday to work with and for anyone who is coping with cancer. The 'Ribbon of Hope' project helps us in many ways because we need to get the word out that we are here, that we need a little financial support through donations, and that we strongly believe that cancer support is a vital step to wellness after a cancer diagnosis."

"If we work together, we can accomplish so much for such a very good cause which will touch three out of four local families who might face a dreaded diagnosis this year alone. It is very scary, but there is hope; the 'Ribbon of Hope' is a good place to start!"

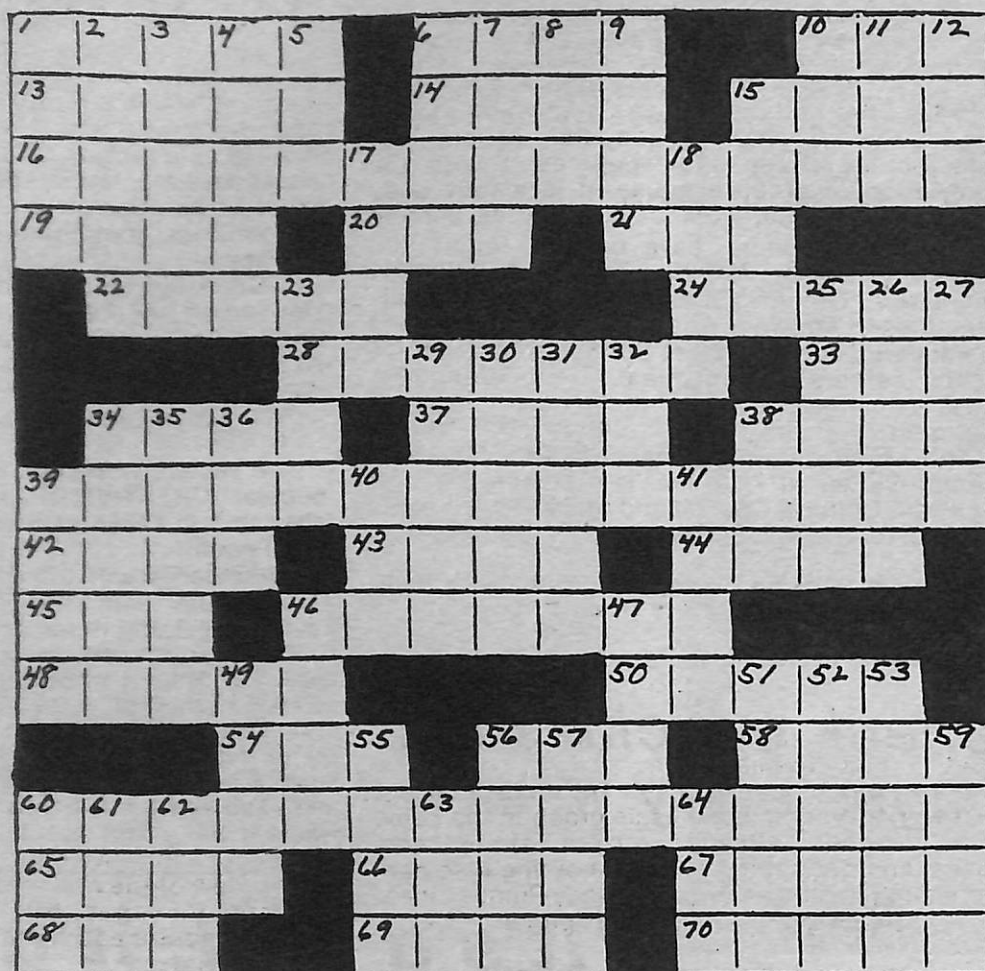


Arts

ACROSS

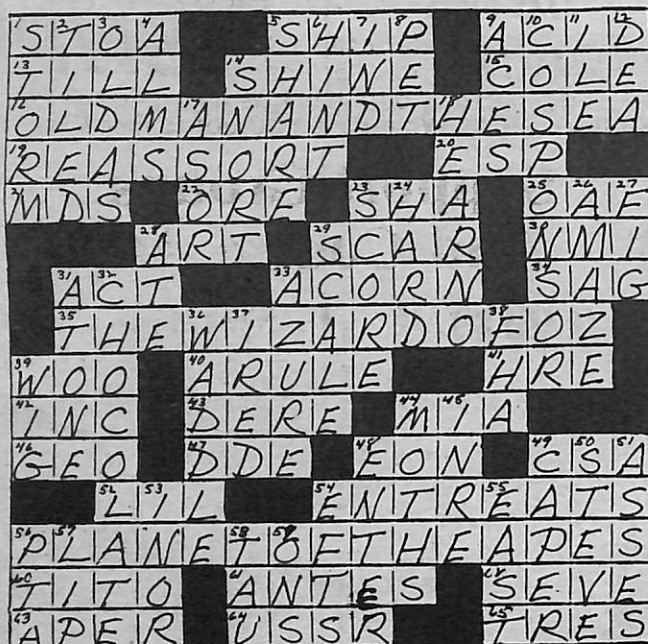
- 1 Backbone
 - 6 Fine steed
 - 10 Trial evidence
 - 13 Taboo things
 - 14 "— That Tune"
 - 15 God of love
 - 16 Prospector's mecca
 - 19 Heap
 - 20 Observe
 - 21 Summer in the sun result
 - 22 "— the hills"
 - 24 Hold up
 - 28 Actor Jack and family
 - 33 Dark beer
 - 34 Actress Miles
 - 37 Lady Chaplin
 - 38 Actress Gam
 - 39 Clementine's dad according to song
 - 42 G.I. mailing address
 - 43 "— it seems"
 - 44 Polish border river
 - 45 Dover's state
 - 46 Baby before walking
 - 48 Expunge
 - 50 Flower holders
 - 54 Baseball great Mel
 - 56 Haggard book title
 - 58 Sheltered at sea
 - 60 Where the gold is
 - 65 Comic Jay
 - 66 The Bard's river
 - 67 French ideas
 - 68 "— me call you sweetheart"
 - 69 Siestas
 - 70 Dance (Fr.)
- ## DOWN
- 1 Break in two
 - 2 Salk's foe
 - 3 "All ——" (pleased statement)
 - 4 "— around" (snooped)
 - 5 Eskimo (abbr.)
 - 6 A Queen's name for lace
 - 7 Storm
 - 8 Love (Latin)
 - 9 Pants' holder-upper
 - 10 Actress Joanne
 - 11 Numbers (abbr.)
 - 12 Fire residue
 - 15 Sea eagle
 - 17 African cape fox
 - 18 Moms' counterparts
 - 23 Wing-like
 - 25 "Mule Train" singer
 - 26 Change
 - 27 Ten to a decade
 - 29 Roger who played Bond
 - 30 Famous code name

MEET THE MASTER - by Dick Mastroianni



- 31 "— of Old Smoky"
- 32 Nae another way
- 34 Deadly snake
- 35 "— Gay" (Famous B-29)
- 36 Thing at law
- 38 Lose intentionally
- 39 Constructed
- 40 Meaning of pro
- 41 Mrs. Nick Charles
- 46 Whale
- 47 Eternally
- 49 Artsy section of NYC
- 51 "You ——" mouthful"
- 52 Actress Barkin
- 53 Tennis star Monica
- 55 Ness was one
- 56 Look for bargains
- 57 Brinker with silver skates
- 59 Latin existence
- 60 Sick
- 61 Formerly named
- 62 Nobel's invention
- 63 Power agency
- 64 Ran to cover

Last Week's Solution...



"Aladdin" To Open At Red Door Theatre

Following the moccasins of STAGE's "Pocahontas" comes the popular children's theatre group's newest production, "Aladdin," adapted by Lyle Pearsons. This new play is the culmination of a six-week, after-school drama camp attended by 23 area young people (ages eight to 15 years-old).

Based on the tale in "1,001 Arabian Nights," Pearsons' adaptation is a play-within-a-play. The outer play tells the story of Queen Scheherazade, who must tell her husband a story each night to prevent him from banishing her. One of these stories is "Aladdin," a young Middle Eastern boy who discovers a magic lamp and proceeds to use it to win the hand of the Sultan's daughter, Princess Badr al-Budir. To do this, he must defeat both the Sultan's Grand Wazir and the evil magician, Mabrubrek.

John Albano of W. Springfield and Jaime Pearsons of Suffield double in the role of Aladdin, as Debra Brennan of West Suffield portrays his mother. Sara Dorans of Agawam plays the Princess, who is captured by the magician (Joshua Lewin, also of Agawam). The Princess escapes with Aladdin, helped by the Genie of the Lamp and the Genie of the Ring (Frankie Roda and Matthew Niles, respectively, both of Agawam).

The Sultan and his wife are Tyler Pearsons and Rachael Nisenkier, and their Wazir is Robert Ventulett, whose son (Dane Scozzari of Suffield) also seeks the hand of the Princess.

Playing Queen Scheherazade is Kate Vasicek, Molly Colbern as her sister, Ricky Avonti as her father, and Daniel Cahill as the King of India.

Rounding out the cast are Kaitlyn Bonneville and Allison Ventulett of Agawam, Sarah Vasicek and Zack Barker of Westfield, Gregory Kanteres and Jason Frank of West Springfield, Kati Lewantowicz of Southampton, and Daniel Gianfelice of Belchertown.

The production runs March 13th and 14th at 7:30 p.m., and March 14th and 15th at 2:00 p.m. at The Red Door Theatre, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. All tickets are \$5 and may be reserved by calling (413) 789-2026.

* * *

Why not surprise your loved ones with a "Birthday Ad" in The AAN??? They're just \$30, so bring in yours today!!!

* * *

Happy 40th Birthday, Laurie



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SARAT FORD

245 Springfield Street
Agawam

Greater Westfield Choral Assoc. Slates Annual Spring Concert

The Greater Westfield Choral Association announces their 20th annual Spring Concert. The program will be presented at the First Congregational Church, Westfield, on March 15th at 4:00 p.m.

The concert will feature music from the Italian Baroque: Pergolesi's *Magnificat* and Caldara's *Stabat Mater* for chorus and soloists. There will also be several folk song arrangements and spirituals. Pianist Janet St. Jean will accompany the program, and will perform Mozart's *Sonata in D*, for piano 4-hands. She will be joined in the Mozart by Allan Taylor.

The Greater Westfield Choral Association is a 40-voice community chorus made up of singers from throughout the Western Massachusetts area, directed by Allan Taylor.

Tickets are \$5 (\$3, students) and will be available at the door. The audience is invited to a reception immediately following the concert.

Jeanne Hofmann Is Latest Recipient Of "Literacy Award"

Jeanne Hofmann, Children's Librarian at the Agawam Public Library, is the recipient for this year's Literacy Award given by the Pioneer Valley Reading Council.

Jeanne has made outstanding contributions to the community by promoting literacy and a love of reading for all. She will receive her award at the annual Reading Council's banquet in May.

Congratulations to Agawam's librarian, Jeanne Hofmann!

All the hometown news with us, each and every week...

Agawam's Melody Band To Perform At Senior Center

Agawam's Melody Band has presented programs in many locations throughout the Greater Springfield area.

During the past seven years, the group has performed at some 30 locations, including nursing homes in Agawam, Chicopee, Springfield, Holyoke, Westfield, South Hadley, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and West Springfield.

Hospital programs have been given in Springfield, Holyoke, Westfield, Ludlow, and Northampton. Other locations have been Grange meetings in Agawam, Southwick, Wilbraham, and Hampden County in West Springfield as well as senior centers in Springfield, West Springfield, East Longmeadow, and their home base in Agawam.

The March 6th performance at the Agawam Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. is sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Council for the Arts and is open to the public at no charge.

Seating will be "cabaret" style with light refreshments available.

Check our classified pages every week

Best local news with us

STAGE To Offer Two Workshops

STAGE children's theatre will offer two theatrical workshops this month at The Red Door Theatre, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. Both workshops will run on Saturday mornings, March 7th through April 5th.

First, a new workshop entitled "FANCY FEET" will meet from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. This workshop is for those ages 11 to 18 who have always wanted to try some Broadway show choreography, but who did not want the pressure of committing to a production.

Each week, participants will learn dance steps to a specific show number. Show styles will vary and will include such numbers as "Ease On Down The Road" from "The Wiz" and "One" from "A Chorus Line," using several forms of dance from jazz to tap. No experience is needed; no special shoes required.

To register, call (413) 789-2026.

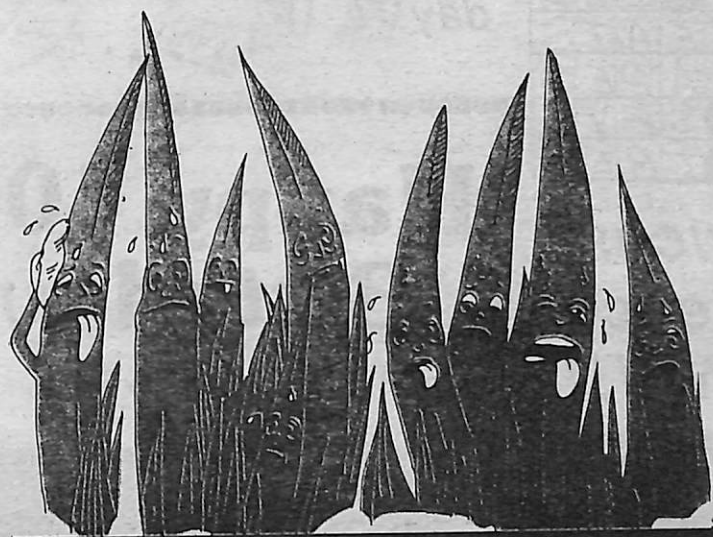
The second workshop is a continuation of the popular "CREATIVE DRAMATICS" series open to ages four to seven and meets from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Participants will bring five classic children's tales "to life" using puppets, shadow play, movement, props, and musical instruments.

These youngsters are introduced to performing with and in front of others. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-2026.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Mr. Aerator Can Help Your Lawn Breathe Again



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Lawn Aeration

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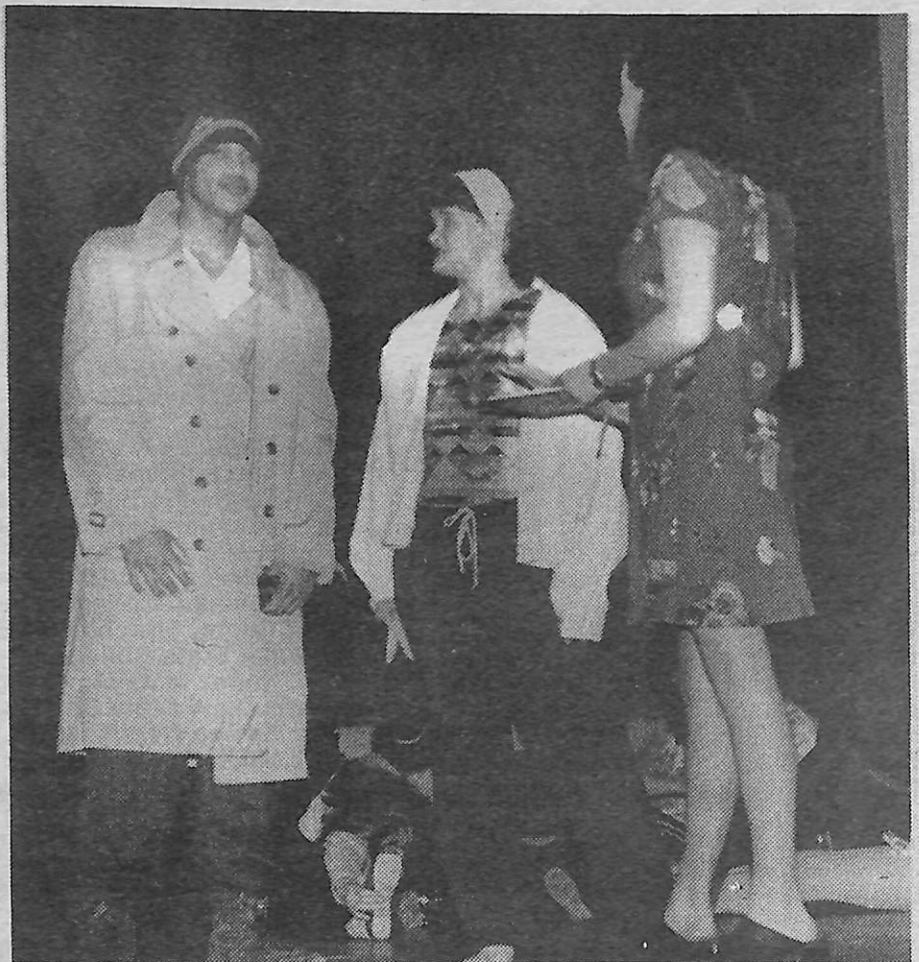
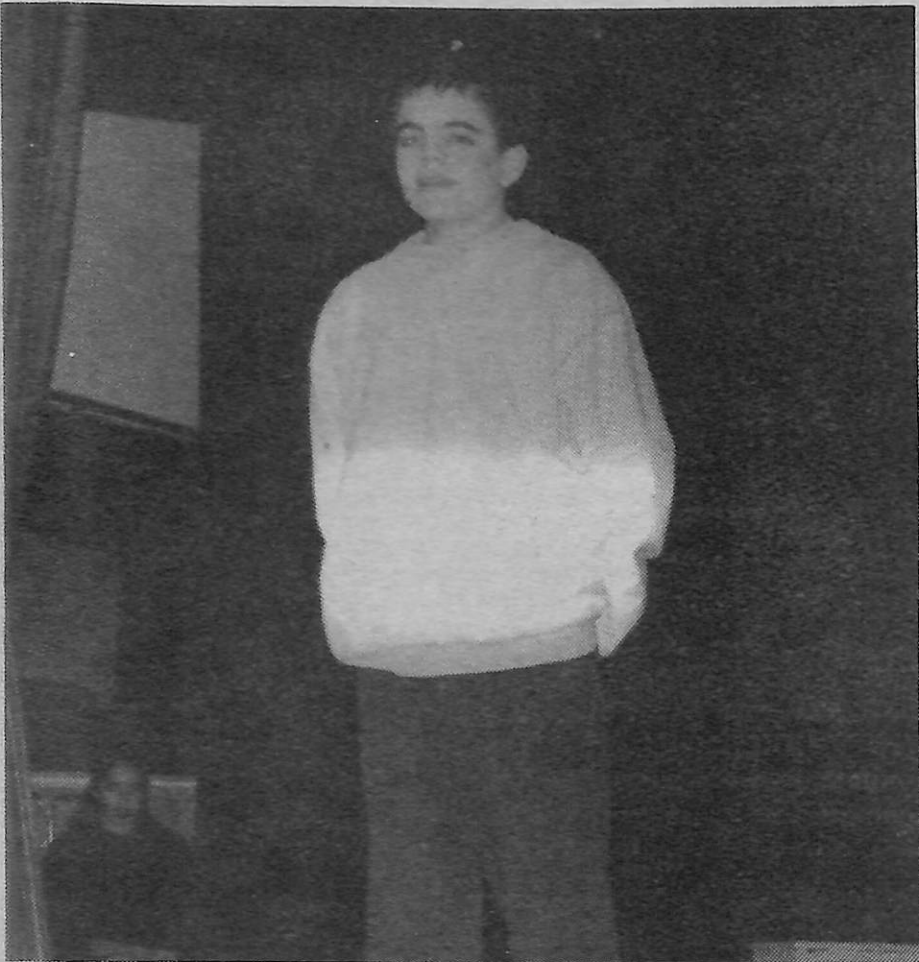
Happy 65th Birthday, Jack!!!

From Your Friends At The AAN...



Education

“Fame” Is Staged At Agawam High School...



THE PLAY “FAME” was presented by AHS’s drama students on February 26th and 27th in the school auditorium. Among the cast members were Dave Gallerani (left photo) and Marc Pedraza, Ali Jackobek, and Caitlin Weisgerber (right photo). Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Agawam Schools’ Weekly Lunch Menu

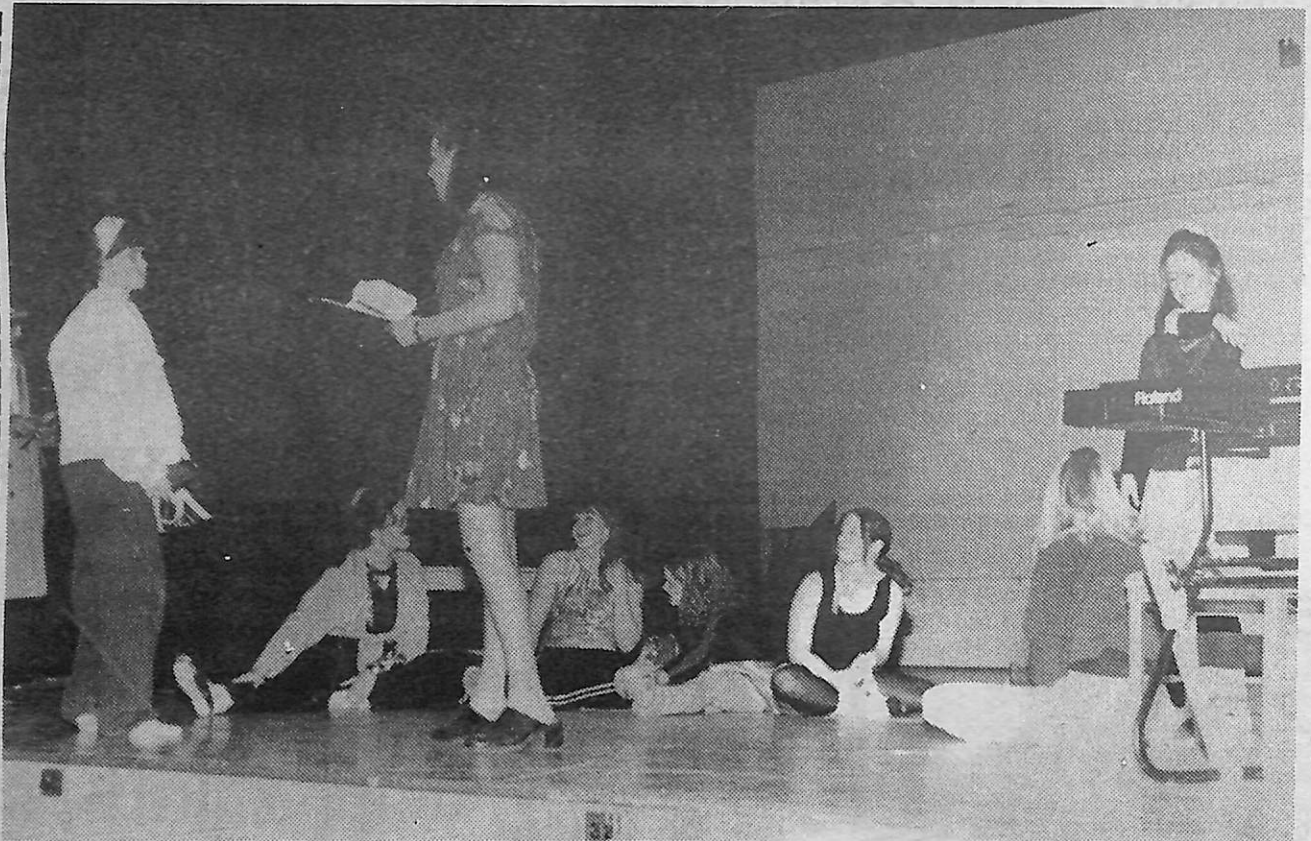
Monday, March 9th: Steamed frankfort in roll, Boston baked beans, oven potato rounds with catsup, chilled pineapple tidbits, milk.

Tuesday, March 10th: Hamburg in roll, steamed rice, seasoned green beans, chocolate oatmeal bars or fresh Mac apple, milk.

Wednesday, March 11th: Hamburg and gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned mixed vegetables, bread and butter, peanut butter cookie, milk.

Thursday, March 12th: Spaghetti with meatsauce, Italian bread and butter, seasoned broccoli cuts, chocolate cake with vanilla icing or fruit cup, milk.

Friday, March 13th: Tomato macaroni soup, tuna salad sandwich or peanut butter and marshmallow sandwich, oven French fries, catsup, ice cream, milk.



A SCENE FROM THE Agawam High School production of “Fame.” Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

ADVERTISER NEWS

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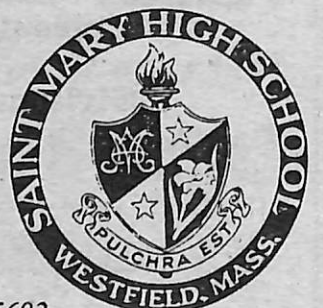
ST. MARY’S HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND ORIENTATION

For students planning to enroll in September 1998

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1998
7:00 P.M.

St. Mary’s High School
27 Bartlett Street
Westfield

Registration is required. Please call 568-5692



A proud tradition of quality education for over 90 years!!



Agawam High Guidance Report

by Paul C. Cavallo
Chairman

SAT Preparation Course

An SAT preparation course will be offered to interested juniors who plan to take the SAT-I on May 2, 1998. The class will run under the auspices of the Agawam Adult Education program and will be taught on six Wednesday nights beginning March 18th.

The cost for the class will be \$70, plus \$15 for the textbook — a total of \$85. The meeting dates are as follows: March 18th, 25th, April 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th.

Each class will run from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (2½ hours). Mr. Cohen will teach the Math, and Mrs. Fisher will teach the English. Attendance is extremely important. Students should not miss a night, since there is no make-up.

Registration for the SAT class will be held on Wednesday, March 11th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the high school guidance office.

There are students who have not turned in their college applications. Deadline dates have arrived. Counselors will not be held responsible for those seniors who do not honor their deadline dates.

SCHOLARSHIP FAIR — Monday, March 9th, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Students will be given a list of the scholarship organizations that will be represented on Monday night. It will save time if you and your child reviewed this list in order to expedite matters.

Don't forget — 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9th. Parents and seniors are strongly urged to attend.

Registration At St. Mary's High

St. Mary's High School in Westfield has announced that orientation and registration for next year's freshman class will be held on Tuesday evening, March 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the school located at 27 Bartlett Street.

Students who did not take the placement test but who would like to register for the upcoming year should contact the school prior to registration night for details on the type of documentation needed.

Parents are encouraged to call the school at 568-5692 for more details or to schedule an alternative appointment if unable to attend registration night on March 11th.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Congratulations!
Nick Montessi: Holyoke Community College.
Jennifer Gingras: Holyoke Community College.
Rebecca Howard: Holyoke Community College, Westfield State College.
David Cassanelli: University of Pittsburgh, University of Massachusetts.
Linda Roy: Western New England College, Holyoke Community College.
Amy Maynard: Holyoke Community College.
Heather Cushing: Springfield Technical Community College.
Jennifer Smist: University of Michigan, Hofstra University, University of Massachusetts.
Courtney Locke: Clark University, Westfield State College, Suffolk University.
George Graves: Mass. College of Liberal Arts, Westfield State College, Holyoke Community College.
Aimee Dubay: Westfield State College.
Richard Feeley: Sacred Heart University.
Brian Beglane: Northeastern University, UMass Dartmouth, Drexel University.
Elisa Shea: University of Arizona.
Kim Scherpa: Holyoke Community College.
Trisha Fiorini: Westfield State College.
Maureen Dimock: Clark University, Salem State College.
Jessica Ferris: University of Rhode Island, Quinnipiac College, Clark University.
Tammy Hutchinson: Suffolk University, Bridgewater State College.
Katie Antaya: Bridgewater State College, Westfield State College.
Sheree Cardin: Mass. College of Liberal Arts.
Michelle Kowalewski: Quinnipiac College.
Julie Laflamme: University of New England, Quinnipiac College.
Aimee DeVall: College of St. Joseph.
Gary Mantolesky: Bridgewater State College, Salem State College, Sacred Heart University, Merrimack College.
Julie Heim: Assumption College.
Mike Savioli: Champlain College.
Andrea Leven: Sage Junior College.

Danielle Gibson: Holyoke Community College.
Seema Gada: Illinois Institute of Technology.
Dan Cizek: Quinnipiac College.
Austin Kimball: Springfield College, Quinnipiac College.

SCHOLARSHIPS: See your counselor for more information or an application.

American Legion Department of Mass. Scholarship: Seven \$1,000 scholarships and 10 \$500 scholarships will be awarded to the child/grandchild of a member of the American Legion Post within the Department of Massachusetts. Deadline: April 1, 1998.

Paul Golden Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from Massachusetts who plans to enroll in a two- or four-year college. Recipients of the award will be chosen according to need, determination, citizenship, and scholarship. A total of five \$750 scholarships will be awarded. Deadline: March 27, 1998.

Michael T. Dobiecki Memorial Scholarship: Criteria for this scholarship are scholastic achievement, outside activities, community endeavors, citizenship, financial need, and intention to attend a four-year, degree-granting university or college. Deadline: March 31, 1998.

"Will to Win" Asthma Athlete Scholarship: All high school seniors with asthma who have achieved excellence in competitive sports and a superior high school academic record are eligible. Deadline: April 30, 1998.

John C. "Chips" Quinn, Jr. Scholarship: This scholarship will be awarded to a minority student interested in studying journalism in college. Deadline: May 29, 1998.

Katherine Gibbs Scholarship Competition: Open to high school seniors who plan to attend Katherine Gibbs.

OPEN HOUSES: See your counselor for more information.


Explore Mount Holyoke College: March 27th, April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th, and April 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Check our classified ads each and every week ... AAN!!!

Hollywood Productions


Miss Agawam Pageant

**Final Deadline—
Saturday, March 21st**



1997 Pageant Winners

**11th Annual
Miss Agawam
Beauty Pageant
& Talent
Competition**

Lori Andruss Boyle, Director

**Miss Agawam
1998**

**March 31st
Chez Josef**

Shoemaker Lane, Agawam

Divisions For Beauty And Talent

Tiny Miss	3-6 years old
Junior Miss	7-9 years old
Pre-Teen	10-12 years old
Teen	13-15 years old
Miss	16-22 years old

Contestants Must Be Agawam Residents

Call 732-3411

For Information And Entry Form

888-413-2227
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 number won't solve all the
 world's problems....



**But it will help at-risk
 kids, save the environ-
 ment and leave you with
 more room in your
 closet.**

Big Brothers Big Sisters has begun to send out trucks to pick up your donated clothing. What can't be re-sold will be recycled. Proceeds will be used to recruit Big Brothers and Sisters for at-risk kids and you can make a world of difference.

Many of you received cards in the mail telling you when we will be in your neighborhood to pick up your unwanted clothes and other items. If you didn't get our postcard, Call 888-413-2227 and we will make sure we don't miss your stop.

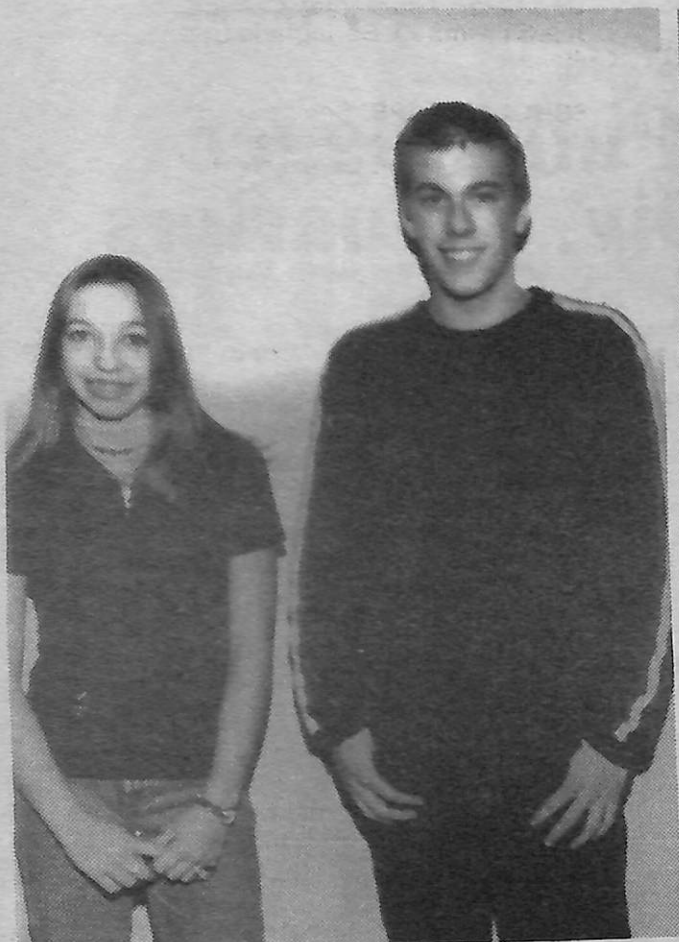


Big Brothers Big Sisters

HARTSPRINGS FOUNDATION

Serving our community - matching caring volunteers with at-risk children

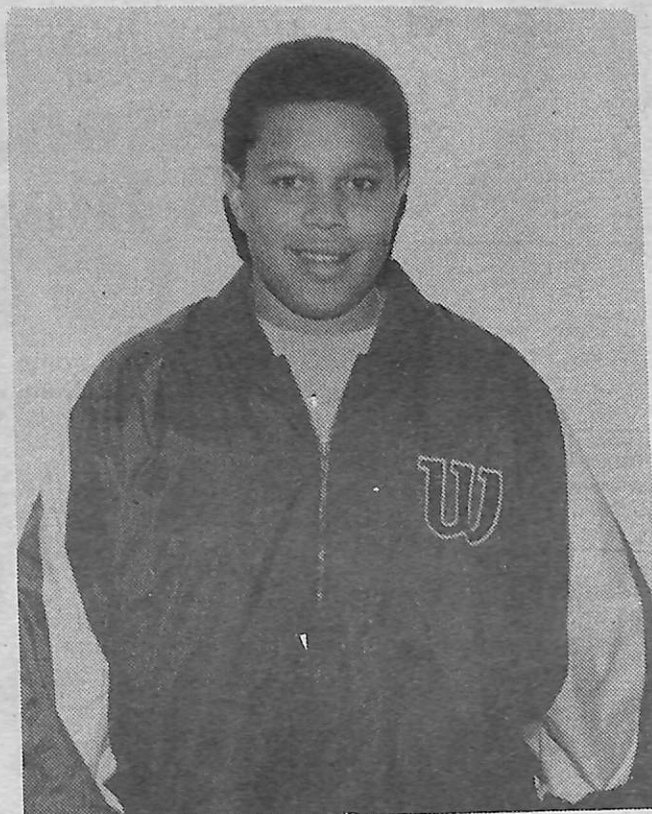
“Students Of The Month” At Agawam Junior High



EIGHTH GRADE physical education “Students of the Month”: Michelle Cote and Steve Nascimbeni. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



DANIELLE CIRILLO, a physical education “Student of the Month” and the winner of a \$50 savings bond. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



CORY PEDRAZA, another Junior High pupil who was honored as a physical education “Student of the Month.” Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Course For Amateur Radio License To Begin March 10th

A class leading to the Novice and no-code Technician Amateur Radio license will be held at the Westfield Vocational Technical High School, Smith Avenue, Westfield on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m., beginning Tuesday, March 10th.

Persons who successfully complete the eight-session course will learn all of the facets necessary to pass the test required for the FCC Technician or Novice Amateur License.

Instruction will cover elementary electronics, FCC rules, and (optionally) Morse code at five words per minute. The course will also cover equipment selection, station set-up, and complete operating guidelines for the new “ham.” No previous experience of any kind is needed. All graduates will have the opportunity to earn an Amateur Radio License!

The only charge is \$20 to cover the cost of materials, including the required text, *Now You're Talking*.

Space is limited; registrations will be accepted in the order received. For further information or registration, contact Cindy Loiero at (413) 568-1175.

The Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association, Inc. (MTARA) in cooperation with the Westfield School Department sponsors this course. The MTARA is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

Area Students Attain Dean's List At UMass Amherst

Dean of Students Jo-Anne Vanin has announced the names of area students who qualified for the Dean's List for the 1997 fall semester at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

*** From Agawam:**

Deborah J. McKenna, Jason G. Pannier, and Aaron Schmaelzle.

*** From Feeding Hills:**

Michelle S. Butler, Chris M. Coelho, Michael F. Freeman, Steven W. Freeman, Thomas J. Graziano, Robert J. Parslow, Maura E. Paton, April M. Rapa, and Brian R. Tetreault.

In order to qualify for the Dean's List at UMass Amherst, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade point average or better on a four-point scale.

“Providing opportunities for academic growth and achievement is one of the University's highest priorities; I am pleased to recognize those students who earned Dean's List honors,” said University Chancellor David K. Scott. “Such outstanding performance is a source of pride and credit to the entire University community.”

All the local news with us, each week

Heritage Hall To Offer Scholarship To Agawam Resident

Heritage Hall, a member of the Genesis Elder-Care Network, is pleased to announce that they are offering a \$500 scholarship to an Agawam resident who is a high school senior graduating in June of 1998 and will be entering a two (2) or four (4) year accredited educational institution.

The applicant's major must be in a healthcare-related field such as, but not limited to, rehabilitation therapy, social work, etc.

The deadline for applications is April 1, 1998. Application materials may be received by calling Kim George, director of volunteer services at 786-8000, ext. 217.

“Spring Parents' Night” To Be Conducted At Jr. High

The Agawam Junior High School will conduct its annual “Spring Parents' Night” on Monday evening, March 9th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

School Principal Kevin C. Littlefield states that all parents of seventh and eighth grade students are welcome to attend the annual conference night, which features brief meetings with teachers and staff members. Classroom secretaries will schedule five-minute appointments with individual teachers that evening.

Mr. Littlefield points out that “Spring Parents' Night” is an excellent opportunity for parents to visit the school, where they may review their child's academic progress.



Cecilia P. Calabrese
Attorney at Law



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Gift Certificates
Available

Tanning
1 Month - \$45
6 Weeks - \$59



Sports

To Meet West Side In Semi's; Minnechaug Probably Next...

Patterson, Bertone-Gross Pull Trigger As AHS Blasts Bombers In Div. I Quarters

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

There probably were some people, those that would buy the Brooklyn Bridge or some swampland in Florida, who thought Westfield High would beat Agawam in their Division I girls' quarterfinal basketball matchup Saturday night. Needless to say, a convincing 58-28 Agawam win at nearly full Kibbe Gym burst their bubble.

At presstime, Agawam is preparing to play West Springfield in the semifinals Wednesday night at Curry Hicks Cage in Amherst. The fifth seeded Terriers beat fourth seeded Taconic, 80-69 on Saturday. Should the Brownies win and second seeded Minnechaug beat sixth seeded Amherst Wednesday night, it will set up another Brownie/Falcon battle this Saturday at the Civic Center for the Western Mass. girls' hoop crown. Game time is 5:45 p.m. AHS has dropped West Side six straight times, including twice this season and by a wide margin in last season's Division I semifinals.

Losing to Agawam was nothing new for the visiting Bombers. They fell, 59-26, back on January 12th. What was new, however, was the fact that they were in the playoffs for the first time in eight years and had a playoff win, 42-33, over Springfield Sci-Tech in the opening round.

But the Brownies, a perpetual playoff team, were not impressed, even though for a short time, the Bombers held their own before the Brownie bombardment began.

For a minute, there was no score. Then senior Amber Conte, a 3-point specialist, canned a deuce. The Brownies, playing their trademark man-to-man and press, were on the board. Westfield, in a zone, had its hands up. That bothered the Brownies. The Bombers, off an

Agawam turnover, hit a deuce. It was 2-all at 13:12. Then, center Pia Bertone-Gross hit two. Point guard Kristen Patterson, off a Bertone-Gross steal, rattled a deuce around the rim down low, got hacked, and hit the charity shot.

Maloni Sits This One Out

It might be noted, but it made little difference, that junior Barbara Maloni sat this one out. The junior has a bad left knee from the Minnechaug game and again aggravated it in practice. Patterson had 23 (8-15, including four 3's, 3-5) showing when she has to, she can, if the need should arise, score big from the point position.

Agawam's full court press took advantage of its speed, both hand-wise and foot-wise. Patterson, with Conte and young Kate Shannon off the bench, jammed up the Bomber guards. The Brownies needed the contribution because Westfield wasn't giving up. With 5:58 gone, the Brownies enjoyed a meager 12-8 lead. Agawam was 4-12. Westfield was 4-6. The time had come for someone to make something happen.

As it happens so often, the Brownies struck like a barrage of cruise missiles. Patterson drained a trey, then off a steal by sophomore Sheri Benton, got a driving deuce. At that point, she had 10 points with 5:30 gone. It was 17-8, Agawam, when Patterson assisted Bertone-Gross on two more. The score, 19-8, was the start of the end for Westfield. Two more 3's by Patterson put it out of reach at 31-8. Bertone Gross (15 points, 7-12, 1-2), who is getting more aggressive on offense in the paint, spun low and hit a bunny. That made it 33-9. Bertone-Gross smiled later about her postup performance. "Yeah, we've been working on it."

Benton, on good defense at the end of the half,

helped Agawam take a 34-15 lead into the locker room.

Strange Second Half

The second half was a strange deal. With two minutes gone, there was no addition to the score. Westfield was banging the offensive boards. The Brownies were mostly standing around. It showed in the fact that Agawam went 0-2 from the floor. The Bombers were 0-7. It was obvious to the Agawam faithful that someone had to break the second half ice. Bertone-Gross did it.

She hit a down low deuce, then Conte, who can break your heart with her 3's, did just that. Bertone-Gross, who was controlling the paint and boxing out, enabled the Brownies to get a ball and break the Bombers' backs. Patterson banged a 3 to make it 42-17 at the 10:50 mark. There was 8:38 left when the scoreboard read 48-19, Agawam. At 1:33, Agawam was up 58-27 and it was lights out.

AGAWAM INDIVIDUAL STATS: Patterson - 23 points, 8-15 fgs, including four 3's (53 percent), 3-5 fts (66 percent), 3 rebs; Bertone-Gross - 15 points, 7-12 fgs, 1-2 fts, 7 rebs, 2 off, 1 steal; Conte - 12 points, 5-12 (41 percent), including two 3's, 1 reb, 1 steal; Cote - 5 points, 2-3 fgs (66 percent), 1-2 fts, 5 def rebs; Hadden - 2 points, 1-5 (20 percent), 0-2 fts, 4 rebs, 2 off; Benton - 1 point, 4 fgs, 1-2 fts, 1 reb.

AGAWAM TEAM STATS: 23-52 fgs, plus six 3's (42 percent), 6-12 fts (50 percent), 28 rebounds, 7 off, 13 turnovers, 4 points allowed off turnovers.

WESTFIELD TEAM STATS: 11-39 fgs (28 percent), 6-21 fts (28 percent), 26 rebounds, 11 off, 9 turnovers, 2 points allowed off turnovers.

Ag. Parks Dept. Offering Volleyball Starting March 17th

The Agawam Parks & Recreation Department will sponsor Co-ed and Men's Volleyball this spring. Both programs will meet at the Agawam High School gym on Tuesday evenings from 8:00-10:00 p.m. starting March 17th, for six weeks.

Fee is \$15. Registration is now being accepted at the Recreation Office or participants may register the first night of the program.

If you have any questions, please call the Recreation Office at 821-0514.

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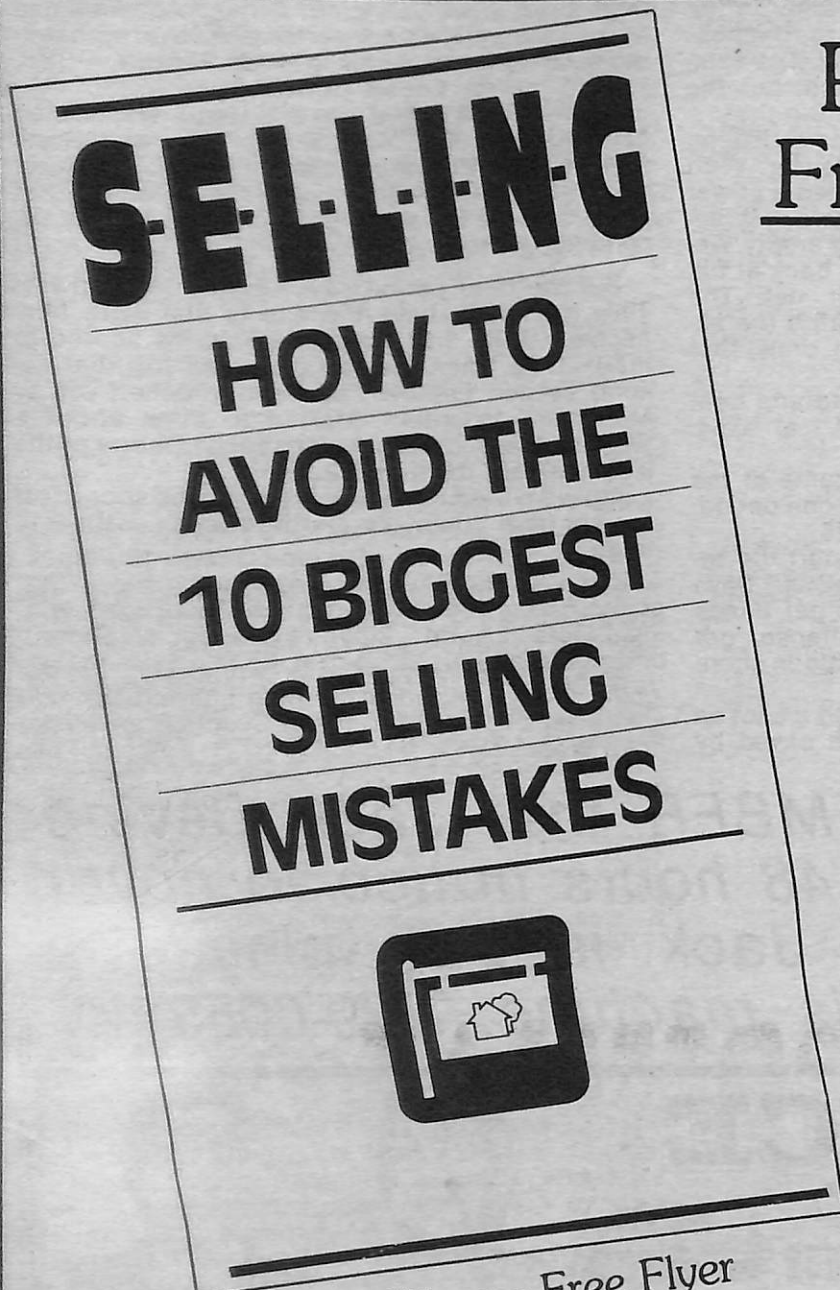
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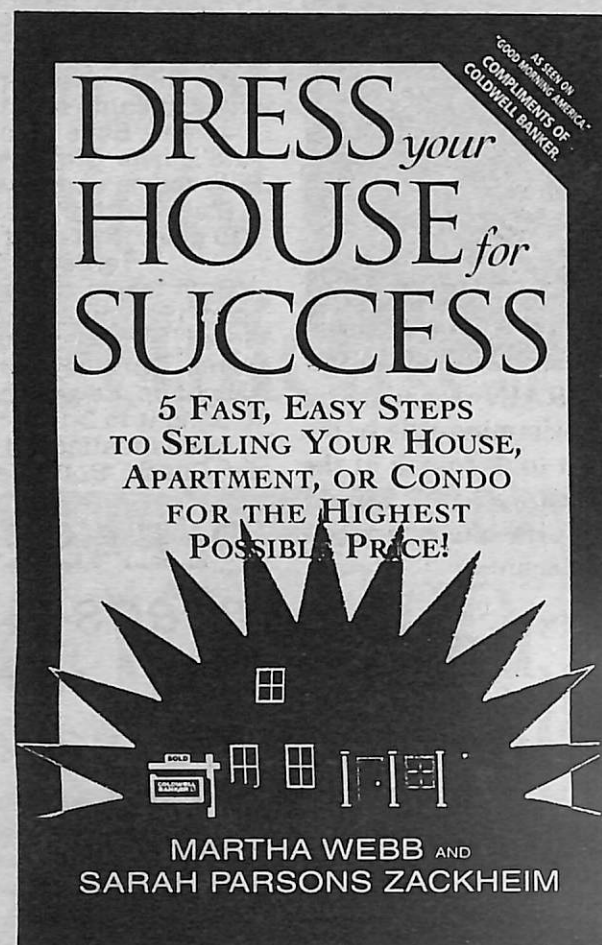
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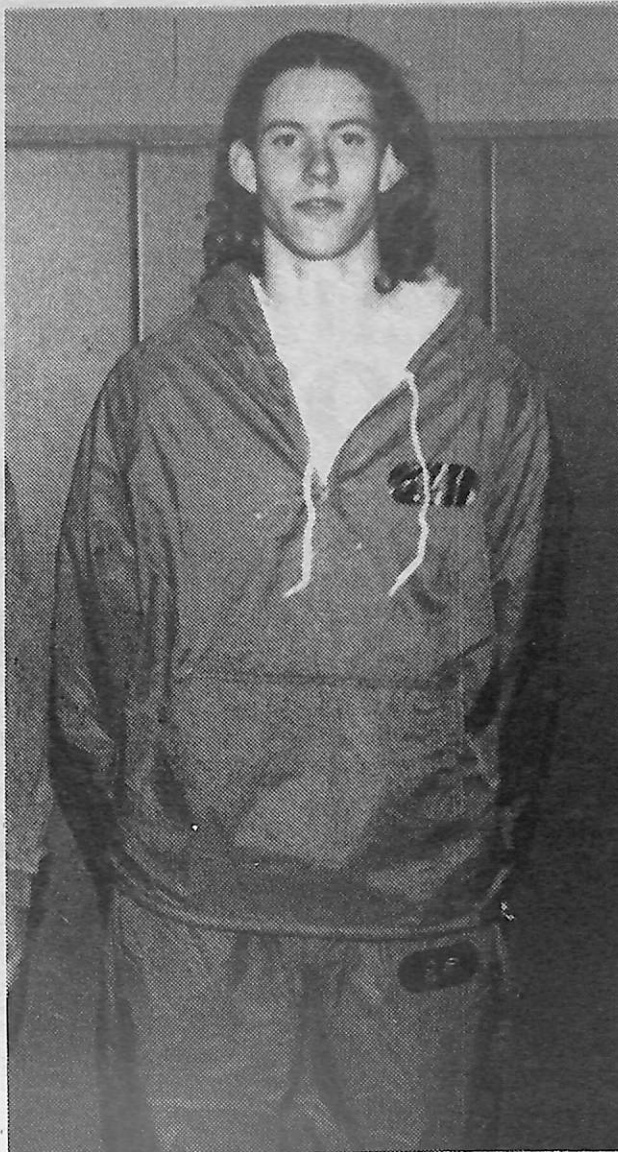
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JUNIOR BRENDAN KILRAIN recently won the Western Mass. boys' swimming title in the 50 meter freestyle and then took fourth at the Massachusetts state meet last weekend. Kilrain also finished sixth in the 100 meter breaststroke. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

WMass Champ Kilrain Places 4th At States

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High swimmer Brendan Kilrain recently completed his season with the boys' swimming team. The junior was one of only four members on the squad. He was the Western Mass. champion in the 50 meter freestyle, the first AHS male swimmer to enjoy that distinction in about 15 years. He also competed in the breaststroke. At the state meet last weekend, he finished fourth in the 50 and sixth in the 100 meter breast.

Obviously, the lack of bodies on the boys' team hurt them in their meets. But Brendan was philosophical. "We knew we were going to have a tough time scoring enough points to win. We just went out and swam as hard as we could."

He feels he was a little lucky to win the 50 meter title. "I don't get tired in that event," he noted. "I just go as fast as I can. It paid off," he smiled, thinking of his first Western Mass. crown.

He compared his other specialty, the breaststroke, to the 50 free. "The breast is a tougher stroke. A lot of it is mental. You have to pace yourself just enough or you'll die and lose it at the end."

Just because the high school season is over doesn't mean Brendan will be out of the pool. In the off-season, he swims for the Holyoke YMCA. In about three weeks, he'll be off to Princeton University where he'll compete in a big meet called the Eastfields. It involves teams from all over New England. There, he'll compete in the 50, 100, 200 IM, and the 200 free.

After that, he'll compete in an age group meet. Last year it was held at Harvard University.

Brendan expects to be back with the Brownies next season. He hopes that more kids will come out for the team. "We have two excellent coaches in Ms. (Kim) Schofield and Mr. (Mayor Christopher) Johnson. We just need more people in the pool," he said.

DAVE ROLLINS is another reason why you turn our pages every week - AAN!!!

In High School Hockey Action...

Falcons Soar Over AHS In Tourney's Opening Round

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It was a repeat of history in the Agawam High/Minnechaug Regional hockey playoff game Monday night at the West Springfield Olympia. The Falcons won, 6-3. It was not the domination (5-1) job they handed the Brownies earlier in the season, but it staked claim that, as the number three seed, they were primed and ready. Agawam, seeded sixth, might have been primed, but the charge never went off again after scoring first.

The thing started out with both teams playing end-to-end hockey. Speed was the factor. With just over two minutes gone, Agawam had a power play. Rich Feeley, Adam Sprague, and Jay Malanson buzzed the Falcon net but came up empty. Andy Radwanski, after the Falcons were back at full strength, was digging behind their net. The Agawam defense was up close to watch the action. Then, Josh Sprague scored to draw first blood. It came at 7:17.

Jeremy Blais came out of the crowd and beat AHS goalie Chris Hearn to make it 1-1 at 10:54. Both teams continued to fly.

Blais got his second goal of the game at the 1:10 mark to make it 2-1 Falcons after one period.

Tentative Start To Second 15

Both teams came out tentative to start the second 15 minutes. Agawam's Tony LeClair, Dave Gusek, and Andy Radwanski tried to get things going. But they, along with the defense, got caught up ice and that resulted in a Falcon score to bring it to 3-1.

Agawam attacked. Malanson slapped a shot as did Gusek. Both were on. Both were saved by

Falcon goalie Jay Anderson. Agawam pressed. They rallied behind Hearn, who was making some great saves.

With 10:18 left in the second period, Radwanski went down. It was a vicious hit and Agawam had the powerplay. They converted at 9:56 off a centering pass from Malanson to Brian Pagella.

Locals Down 3-2

Agawam was now down 3-2. Hearn was tested big time from 9:20 to 6:32. Sprague and Brian Pagella were his armor out front. Hearn's big test was a glove save off the stick of Ryan Deane. That effort saw the Brownies go off the ice for the second period, trailing 3-2.

But the third period saw Agawam fade away. They just didn't have the gas to stay with Minnechaug. With 2:10 gone, the Falcons scored to make it 4-2. Then the Falcons, realizing that second seeded Ludlow had been knocked off by Monument Mountain, started to think about a Western Mass. crown. A slapshot by Deane at the 9:03 mark put them up 5-2.

Agawam tried to answer when Gusek scored off assists from Jubinville and Radwanski with 8:14 to go.

It might have meant something. But the Brownies had a powerplay with 6:10 left. Minnechaug scored. It was 6-3 and it was over.

Later, Rich Feeley, a senior, would say, "I'm not going to be a Monday morning quarterback. We lost. That's it. I want to thank Coach (Fran) Pycko for a great year."

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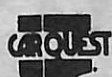
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Third Annual Ben Moore Memorial Race Held At Mt. Tom

The Third Annual Ben Moore Memorial Race was held at Mt. Tom on February 22nd. The event was organized by Glen Olson, the coach for the Agawam High Alpine boys' team, to honor the memory of Ben Moore, who worked as an Agawam police officer for many years.

Moore did not pick up skiing until he was an adult, but he became an avid skier and spent many hours as an instructor on Mt. Tom teaching young people how to ski. Besides keeping alive his memory, the race provides valuable experience to students interested in racing. Most of the competitors have racing experience, but a few of them were experiencing the thrill of racing for the first time.

Another important reason for the event is to raise money in order to provide scholarships for Agawam Alpine racers. Two \$300 scholarships are available each year to seniors who have participated in the Agawam High School Alpine race teams and the Ben Moore Race. Last year's recipients were Jill Pavelcsyk and Ben Weld.

The race is also funded by the Agawam Police Association, Landry, Lyons & Whyte Company, and Swany Ski Company. Coach Olson wishes to thank those groups for their helping in funding the race.

Many of the racers from the Agawam Alpine girls' and boys' teams participated this year. Some of the other racers were from the Frontier School District, East Longmeadow, Holyoke, Mt. Tom, and Bradford ski area.

The event consisted of three Giant Slalom runs. The two best races for each skier were used to determine the winner within each division. The racers were placed in four divisions according to their birth dates.

In the J3 and J4 girls' division (racers born between 1983 and 1986), Courtney Adamczyk (Agawam) finished in first place. Danielle Stone (Mt. Tom) placed second, and Nicole Clauson (Agawam) took third.

Alex Stone (Mt. Tom) finished first in the J1 and J2 division (racers born between 1978 and 1982). Second place went to Lyndsey Troxell (Frontier), and Laura Charest (Agawam) placed third. A fourth-place finish was also awarded in this division and went to Aimee Devall (Agawam).

The boys' J3 and J4 first-place finish was given to Matt Marchegiani (Bradford), second place to Justin Marchegiani (Bradford), third to Sean Devall (Agawam), and fourth to Tyler Munroe (Bradford).

The top three positions in the J1 and J2 boys' division went to Agawam racers. Stephen Charest took first, Ryan Proguiske second, and Mike DeFilipi took third. Fourth place went to Mark Rodgers from Holyoke.

Trophies were given to the top three finishers, and a medal was given to the fourth-place finishers.

Many Agawam parents helped Coach Olson organize and run the race. The Agawam girls' coach, Mr. Graveline, acted as the announcer of the race. He informed the viewers of the names of each racer as they came down the course and then announced their finishing times.

Coach Olson wishes to thank all the parents and coaches from the different teams who also helped on that day in order to make the race a success.

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THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE Agawam High School boys' Alpine ski team who competed at the State Championships (from left to right): Michael Savioli, Ryan Progulske, Stephen Charest, and Mike DeFilipi.

Boys' Lacrosse Clinic To Begin Monday, March 9th

A lacrosse clinic for boys in grades five through eight will be held on March 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Agawam High gymnasium.

Varsity coaches Cindy Grieve and Nick St. George will be conducting the clinic along with some members of the varsity teams.

The cost for the week is \$20, with the money going to the lacrosse booster clubs to help defray the cost for banquets, gifts, and extras not covered in the school budget.

Registration forms may be picked up at Agawam Middle School and Agawam Junior High School. Registration will take place at the door at 5:30 p.m. on March 9th.

Agawam Parks & Rec To Sponsor Bicycle Maintenance Class

The Agawam Parks & Recreation Department will sponsor a bicycle maintenance and repair class on Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Agawam High School.

This class is for adult/child pairs who will learn flat repair, dismounting and mounting tires, locating and repairing leaks, break repair and adjustment, cleaning and proper lubrication, and adjusting bike fit to the rider.

Those attending should bring their bicycle (one per pair), tube patching kit, tool box, and any needed replacement parts.

Instructor is Joe Shaer. Cost is \$20 per pair. Registration is now being accepted at the Recreation Office. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, March 12th at 4:00 p.m.

* * * * *

For all the latest news in local sports action, you turn our pages every week...

* * * * *

Four Racers From AHS's Boys' Ski Team Compete At States

The State Championships were held at Berkshire East in Charlemont on Tuesday, February 24th. Four boys from the Agawam High Alpine ski team qualified as individuals.

In order for the team to compete, they must place either first or second in their division. Since the boys finished third place in Division A, they did not compete as a team, but Stephen Charest, Ryan Progulske, Mike Savioli, and Mike DeFilipi qualified by placing in the top 30 on the mountain overall for the regular season.

The boys competed in two races that day: a Giant Slalom in the morning and a Slalom in the afternoon. The conditions for the race were not the best due to snow, freezing rain, and warm temperatures, but the boys did manage to perform well.

The best from the state raced at this competition, and Stephen, Ryan, and Mike DeFilipi managed to place in the top 50 in the Giant Slalom event.

Stephen Charest finished 21st on the mountain in the G.S. with a time of 47.67. Ryan Progulske finished 33rd in the G.S. with a time of 49.23, and Mike DeFilipi placed 50th with a time of 50.77. Mike Savioli had a great G.S. run, but placed just out of the top 50.

Stephen was the only one to finish in the top 50 in the Slalom event. He placed 34th with a time of 38.75.

Coach Glen Olson wishes to congratulate the boys on reaching the States and knows they accomplished this by working hard throughout the entire season.

Agawam Parks & Rec Is Taking Applications For Summer Jobs

The Agawam Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications for summer employment. Possible positions include camp director, camp specialist, camp counselor, camp nurse, pool director, head lifeguard, water safety instructor, lifeguard, and tennis instructor.

Applicants must be 16 years or older to be eligible for employment.

Applications and brief job descriptions are available at the Recreation Office, 760 Cooper St., Agawam. Application deadline for camp or pool director is April 1, 1998; all other positions, the deadline is April 15, 1998.

For more information, call the Agawam Recreation Department at 821-0514.

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REBECCA WHITE

Rebecca White Is Named To Swim Team At Bridgewater State

Feeding Hills resident Rebecca White has been named to the 1997-1998 Bridgewater State College Swimming Team, which is currently coached by Ann Murray, now in her second season at B.S.C.

Rebecca is a graduate of Agawam High School, where she participated in gymnastics.

Rebecca is a sophomore at Bridgewater State College, where she is majoring in psychology. She is the daughter of Michael & Barbara White of Feeding Hills.



STEPHEN PILEGI, RICK REED, AND BILL WALSH were at the Agawam Police Station last month to conduct sign-ups for the 1998 season of the Babe Ruth baseball league. Because of the mild and relatively calm winter, everyone is hoping for a smooth start (weather-wise) to the season. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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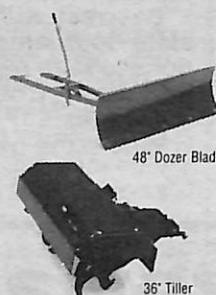
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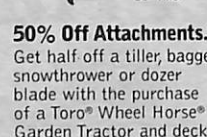
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* Offer applies to Lawn and Garden Tractor financed on Toro's Revolving Charge Plan from February 1, 1998 to May 31, 1998. Subject to credit approval. The Annual Percentage Rate ("APR") may vary from month to month. As of September 1, 1997, the current APR is 21.9% (corresponding monthly periodic rate is 1.83%) with a \$.50 minimum monthly charge. No minimum monthly payment is required until October 1, 1998. Finance charges will be accrued from date of purchase unless paid in full by October 1, 1998.

** Gas or electric trimmer or dump cart free with purchase of a Toro Wheel Horse Garden Tractor and mowing deck between February 14, 1998 and March 29, 1998.



Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Three Weeks Until Spring (At Least That's What The Calendar Says)

Even though the calendar says it's three weeks until spring, the weather has given us a bonus. I can't remember a day in February that I went fishing in shirtsleeves!

Let's not get too complacent, however, because memory recalls shoveling a foot of snow in April.

El Nino may be responsible for some tragic events on the west coast and in Florida, but if every cloud has a silver lining, the Northeast may have been the beneficiary of the weather pattern.

FISHING OUTLOOK AND OTHER RUMORS

Reliable sources (although fishermen are accused of being the greatest liars in history) have indicated that due to the warmer ocean waters, fishing timetables have been completely scrambled.

A large school of bluefish is reported to be hanging around the power plant outflow in the Merrimack River. They have been hitting surface poppers and lead head jigs with pork trailers.

The Thames River has been giving up bunches of schoolie stripers on lead head jigs with twister tail combos. Most of the action has been reported near the hump off of the town dock at Norwich.

Some keeper-sized fish have been taken further downstream by the power plant. Catch and release is important, and careful release of fish is imperative. If possible, unhook the fish without removing it from the water.

Other reports tell of some schooling bluefish off of East Beach in Rhode Island, and that some fluke or summer flounder have been taken along the Rhode Island shoreline. These fish do not usually show up until June!

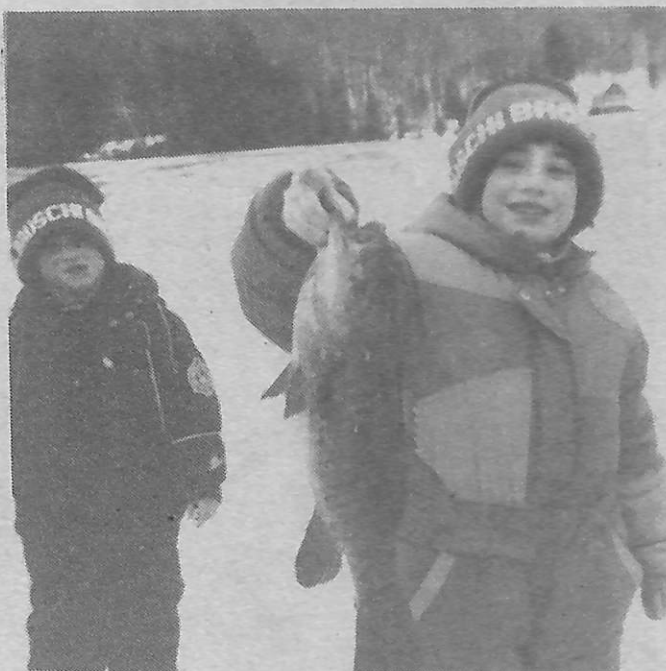
DIVISION TO BEGIN STOCKING THIS WEEK

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will begin stocking trout this week. With the icing out of many area ponds, they will be accessible to Valley anglers quite early this year.

With the emphasis on quality fishing, the Division will be stocking larger fish rather than just sheer numbers of puny trout.

MAWAGA LUNKER DERBY- SET FOR MARCH 29TH

The Mawaga Club's annual Lunker Derby will take place on March 29th this year at the club pond. This event will be open to the angling public



JOEL AND EMILY BARLAR are "fishing" for attention! Photo courtesy of David Barlar.

and is a great family activity to launch the season with.

As usual, a great breakfast comes with the price of the ticket, and some great prizes will be available. A full listing of ticket locations and event schedules will be coming in the next column.

SAFE FISHING IS NO ACCIDENT

Just a word of caution for those anglers like myself, who will be taking advantage of the early bonus that the weatherman has bestowed upon us. A dunking at this time of year can be deadly.

Hypothermia can render you lifeless in less than 10 minutes. Be careful!

A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF MY READERS

To conclude this week's column, I'd like to share with you a letter which I received from David Barlar of Feeding Hills, as well as a photo that he was kind enough to enclose with his letter:

To Kent:

I really enjoy reading your column in The Advertiser-News. You do a great job of covering what's happening in the great outdoors.

I have enclosed with this letter a photo of two of my kids with a nice smallmouth they recently caught in the Berkshires. (By the way, the fish was released.)

My daughter, Emily, is six years-old, and my son, Joel, is four year-old; they both love to fish. I also have a 1 1/2 year-old son, Todd, and another child on the way in a couple of weeks. What a crew of fishermen!

Hope you can use the photo in the paper. Thanks!

David Barlar
Feeding Hills

Baywest Hockey Competes In Yearly District 6 Playdown Tournament

During February vacation, the Baywest Hockey organization placed well in the yearly District 6 Playdown tournament.

District 6 includes teams from all over Western Mass. The winners from each division then go on to play in the state tournament. This year, Baywest has been VERY successful.

There were Baywest teams in every division playing in the finals that were held on Saturday,

February 21st. We are proud to announce that all our teams won their games.

Baywest will be representing District 6 in the state tournament in four divisions. Congratulations to Mite A, Squirt A, Squirt B1, PeeWee B, and PeeWee C. Good luck to all teams in the upcoming games.

Who's the best?—Baywest!

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Champ Dan Avery To Compete At Riverside On A Limited Schedule

Dan Avery of Somers, Connecticut announced he would return to Riverside Park on a limited schedule. Avery, Riverside Park Speedway's 1995 Modified Champion and 10th on the all-time Riverside Park Speedway Modified Win List, will compete at Riverside Park Speedway as his NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour schedule allows.

"I've wanted to come back to Riverside for the past two years," says Avery, who has raced full-time on the NASCAR Modified Tour since 1996. "But the demands are so high on the tour. Time just did not permit us to come back." Avery will drive the Raceworks built no. 67 owned by Gary Teto.

Teto pointed to Avery's past experience, past Track Championship, and 10th place finish on the 1997 NASCAR Modified Tour as reasons he wanted to work with Avery. "He is the type of driver you would love to have and we're very happy," says Teto.

Director of Auto Racing Joe Lewandoski is thrilled about the news. "Riverside Park Speedway will be the place to watch modifieds in 1998. With all these great drivers returning for the year, I can't help but be excited!" says Lewandoski.

Lewandoski pointed out that only four dates on the Modified Tour are in conflict with Riverside Park's schedule. "I tried to build a schedule that would make it possible for these guys to come back. And we hope the Modified Tour fans will follow these drivers to Riverside Park. I think I've made it easy on the competitors and the fans," says Lewandoski.

Avery, like many other Modified Tour drivers returning to the park, feels Riverside Park is a good learning ground for Tour drivers. "Racing at Riverside Park keeps our skills sharp. It's good for your reflexes and your ability to stay out of trouble. That helps us during the Tour races. Things tend to happen fast at Riverside," says Avery.

"I don't know if it's our record-high point fund or just the great competition we're going to have here, but this year will be amazing. So many great drivers have decided to come and race here on Saturday nights," added Lewandoski. Riverside Park Speedway's Championship Point Fund exceeds \$87,000 for 1998.

In addition to Avery, other Modified Tour drivers returning to Riverside Park include Reggie Ruggerio, Chris Kopec, Ed Flemke, Jr., and Ted Christopher. Riverside Park Speedway expects confirmation soon regarding the possible return of five-time Track Champion Bob Polverari. Also rumored to be joining this elite field at Riverside Park in 1998 is Modified Tour Driver Mike Ewanitsko.

Avery can be seen competing at Riverside Park in the NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour March 28th-29th. The highlight of the Spring Classic weekend will be the PEPSI 200 Modified Tour Race on Sunday, March 29th. Grandstands open at 12:00 noon and the race begins at 1:30 p.m.

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MEMBERS OF THE BayWest PeeWee "C" hockey team: front row - goalies Jeff Sylvain and Nick Zukowski; middle row - Dave Carr, Anthony Verteramo, Ashton Demas, Shane Conlon, Nick Pandolphi, and Kyle Halloran; back row - Andrew Barnes, Assistant Captain Mark Suchy, Assistant Captain Tommy Douglas, George Palanijian, Travis Schwamb, and Captain Brian Cronin.

Bay West Panthers Take On Tough Opponents In Tournament Action

The Bay West Panthers (Division B Squirt) started their weekend tournament against PAT (Pointe aux Trembles) Panthers (Division A Mite) on Saturday, February 28th at Blunt Arena in Springfield.

The PAT Panthers wasted no time as they found the back of the net with the goal going to Vincent Beaudin to give the visitors a 1-0 lead. But Bay West came right back with a goal by David Suchy with the assist going to Adam Corbin to knot the score at 1-1.

Some fine defensive plays were turned in by Matt Woodward to keep the score tied. David Suchy almost put Bay West ahead, only to be thwarted by the PAT goaltender. The PAT Panthers were putting the pressure on and it paid off as Maxime Vincent scored (assisted by Scott Etason and Mathieu Normandin), to give PAT a 2-1 lead.

Bay West then started putting on some offensive pressure of their own as Adam Corbin had a good shot on goal. Bay West then tied the game as Jon Wagner went in alone of the PAT goaltender, made a nice move, and tucked the puck into the net to tie the game. (Matt Footit assisted.)

In the third period, Bay West took the lead on a goal by Ryan Harlow (assisted by Anthony Santinello) to make the score 3-2. But the PAT Panthers never gave up as Scott Etason scored to tie the game (assists going to Jonathon Cormier and Oliver Lepine). The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

On Sunday, March 1st, Bay West was matched up against the PAT Red Wings at the Olympia Rink. The Red Wings came out quickly with two

shots on Tony Boido, who came up with the saves. Pascal Hout made a beautiful pass in front of the net for a Red Wings opportunity.

Bay West turned on the offensive pressure as Jon Wagner, Matt Footit, and Mike Brouillette all took good shots on goal only to be stopped by Bruno Leclerc (PAT goalie).

The Red Wings' Phillippe T. Hetu turned in some fine defensive plays to cut off the Bay West attack. In the second period, Anthony Santinello was alone in front of the net only to be stoned by the PAT goalie. Tony Boido (Bay West goalie) also turned away excellent shots by the Red Wings.

Bay West's Alex Demers was called for a tripping penalty to give the Red Wings a power play opportunity, but Bay West was able to kill off the time to keep the game scoreless.

The third period started with an outstanding shorthanded opportunity for Bay West as Mike Brouillette was all alone in front of the net and took three shots, only to be stoned by Bruno Leclerc to preserve the scoreless contest.

PAT Red Wings took a hard shot on goal, but Tony Boido made a nice glove save. Bay West then had a power play opportunity as Ryan Harlow was tripped by Frederick Bouthillier, but they could not capitalize.

Then with only 26 seconds left in the game, Matt Footit streaked down the right wing and snapped off an excellent wrist shot that found the upper left corner of the net to give Bay West a 1-0 lead that would stand up. The outstanding defensive play by Ed Gaiser and Joey Zmuda played a major part of the shutout along with the 20 saves by the Bay West goalie, Tony Boido.

BayWest PeeWee "C" Advances To The State Championships

The BayWest PeeWee "C" hockey team advanced to the state championships, having defeated all three of their opponents during the recent GSHL playdowns.

In game one of the playdowns, BayWest easily defeated Holy Name No. 2 by a score of 4-0. Mark Suchy scored the first goal in the first period with an assist from Kyle Halloran and Andrew Barnes. Two more goals were added in the second period — the first by Kyle Halloran with an assist by Andrew Barnes and Mark Suchy, and the third goal was scored by Tommy Douglas with an assist by Brian Cronin.

BayWest's final goal of the game was scored by Mark Suchy in the third period. He was assisted by Nick Pandolphi and Shane Conlon.

Also contributing to the team win were Anthony Verteramo, Dave Carr, Ashton Demas, and George Palanijian. Putting forth excellent goaltending efforts were Nick Zukowski and Jeff Sylvain.

Game two found BayWest facing Amherst. Captain Brian Cronin played an excellent offensive and defensive game, scoring the first two BayWest goals. Brian's first unassisted goal came at 11:15 of the first period, and he scored again late into the second period, this time assisted by Nick Pandolphi.

BayWest's final goal was scored by Assistant Captain Mark Suchy with an assist again to Nick Pandolphi. A fine defensive game led the team to a 3-0 victory over Amherst, giving a well-deserved shutout to goalies Zukowski and Sylvain, who made an outstanding block to rob Amherst of a goal.

Holy Name No. 1 proved to be more challenging to BayWest during the final round of the playdowns. Down 2-0 going into the third period, Mark Suchy, assisted by Ashton Demas and Shane Conlon, put the puck in the net for BayWest's first goal.

Suchy scored again at 10:35 with an assist from Anthony Verteramo and Shane Conlon to tie up the score. Overtime found neither team scoring, leading to a shootout.

Mark Suchy and Assistant Captain Tommy Douglas both made their shots before Holy Name faltered against the fine goaltending of Nick Zukowski. Shane Conlon then made his shot to lead BayWest to a 5-4 victory over Holy Name.

Congratulations go out to the entire team from family and friends, and thanks to Head Coach Art Zukowski and Assistant Coaches Jack Rizzo, Jim Demas, and Anthony Verteramo for their fine work with the players.

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For details, contact Dave at 781-331-7898, New England Youth Sports, 775 Pleasant St., Suite 9, Weymouth, MA 02189.

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Westfield	2	0	0	4
Agawam (Gonyeau)	1	1	0	2
Agawam (Costa)	1	1	0	2
Ludlow	0	2	0	0

U-9 BOYS	W	L	T	P
Westfield	2	0	0	4
Ludlow Blasters	2	0	0	4
Ball Hogs	1	1	0	2
Bruno Antico	1	1	0	2
Holyoke	0	2	0	0
Ludlow Mustangs	0	2	0	0

U-12 BOYS	W	L	T	P
West Side Eagles	2	0	0	4
Westfield Strikers	2	0	0	4
West Side (Mason)	2	0	0	4
Ajax	0	2	0	0
Agawam (Perry)	0	2	0	0
Agawam (Conlon)	0	2	0	0

14-15 BOYS	W	L	T	P
Rockets	2	0	0	4
Agawam (Hearn)	1	1	0	2
Agawam (Fay)	1	1	0	2
Southwick	0	2	0	0

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS	W	L	T	P
Agawam	2	0	0	4
Westfield Berzerkers	2	0	0	4
Holyoke S.C. No. 2	1	1	0	2
Holyoke S.C. No. 1	1	2	0	2
Valley S.C.	0	3	0	0

U-11 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
East Side	2	0	0	4
West Side	2	0	0	4
Holyoke	1	0	0	2
Brookside	0	2	0	0
Agawam Strikers	0	2	0	0

U-12 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Ludlow Viper	2	1	0	4
Northampton	2	0	0	4
Ludlow Blue Devils	1	1	1	3
Luigi's	1	0	1	3
Agawam Lightning	1	1	0	2
Agawam (Kennedy)	0	2	0	0
Holy Cross	0	2	0	0

U-14 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Our Lady Of Hope	2	0	0	4
South Hadley	1	0	1	3
West Side	1	0	1	3
Agawam	0	1	2	2
Holyoke	0	1	2	2
Holy Cross	0	2	0	0

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Agawam (Marsili)	2	0	0	4
Agawam (Cincotta)	1	1	0	2
Holyoke	1	1	0	2
West Side	0	2	0	0

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Featherlite Modifieds Rolling Into Riverside On March 28th-29th

Riverside Park Speedway will celebrate its 50th year of auto racing with an action packed schedule. The NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour rolls into town March 28th-29th with the PEPSI 200 at Riverside Park.

"We are going to open and close racing in New England," said Director of Auto Racing Joe Lewandoski. Riverside Park will close its season with the Fall Classic on October 31st-November 1st. Lewandoski is confident fans will receive a great value for their dollar at the popular quarter mile track.

The schedule features 44 events, including three motorcycle events, and two days of Rodeo. Fans will have the chance to see everything from six year-olds participating in Quarter Midget racing, to the fastest race cars on four wheels when the ISMA Supermodifieds make their first appearance in New England April 18th.

Other schedule highlights include the NASCAR Busch North Series race on May 2nd, the Bud Riverside 500 on May 23rd, Triple 50's Summer-time Madness on July 21st, and the Marathon Thrills and Spills Enduro Series taking place throughout the season. Budweiser will also sponsor the Bud Triple Crown Series.

Tired of watching four-wheeled competition? The American Motorcycle Association (AMA) will bring its flat truck motorcycles to Riverside on July 10th and August 21st. The AMA will return to Riverside for the Stadium Motocross on September 12th.

For more information, contact Jeremy Davidson at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3341.

Racquetball Tourney And Aerob-A-Thon At Fitness First

Exercise enthusiasts are invited to participate in a variety of activities during the 12th Annual Children's Miracle Network Racquetball Tournament and Aerob-A-Thon to be held March 6th-8th at Fitness First in Feeding Hills.

All proceeds will benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.

"This year's special weekend will include activities for all ages," said Paula Welker, owner of Fitness First.

The festivities will kickoff with a new event for seniors on Friday, March 6th. A Senior Water Noodle Race will be held at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. where senior swimmers will scramble to the finish line atop their water noodle.

This year's annual Aerob-A-Thon will take place on Saturday, March 7th, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Anyone with a pledge of \$25 may participate, and pledges of \$50 or more will receive a souvenir shirt, sport bottle, lunch, and buffet dinner that evening.

Children can dive for "Coins for a Cure" on Sunday, March 8th, at 11:00 a.m. Coins will be collected throughout the weekend to be donated to the Children's Miracle Network.

Players in the three-day Racquetball Tournament open divisions will compete for cash prizes and participants in other divisions will compete for new racquets. Everyone who registers for the tournament will be given a tournament t-shirt and free refreshments throughout the weekend.

For more information about the racquetball tournament and aerobathon, or to receive an entry form or pledge sheet, call the Children's Miracle Network at 784-4111, or Fitness First at 786-1460.

Riverside Announcer Gary Danko To Host Weekly Radio Series On WHYN AM 560

Riverside Park Speedway and WHYN AM are excited to announce the beginning of a new weekly radio series, "The Speedway Line Report." Broadcast every Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. beginning March 23rd, the show will feature interviews with drivers, team owners, sponsors, and other racing personalities.

Gary James of WHYN Radio said he began the show based on listeners' demand. "There are so many auto racing enthusiasts in the area," said James, "and they kept asking for a show."

Gary Danko, the voice of Riverside Park Speedway, will host the program. A total of 25 episodes will be produced, the last being aired on September 7th.

"The Speedway Line Report" will feature

WMass Fly Fishermen To Hold Workshop

The Western Massachusetts Fly Fishermen will conduct their 26th annual Fly Fishermen's Workshop on Monday, March 16th, at the Polish-American Citizen's Club on East Street in Ludlow.

The special guest will be noted guide and fly fishermen Jack Smola. Jack will present a slide show and commentary on fishing local waters. The streams to be shown are the Deerfield, Swift, and Farmington Rivers.

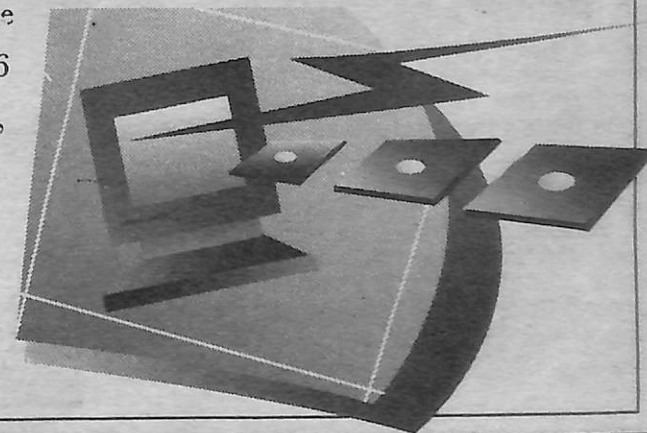
reports from Riverside Park, as well as many other raceways around New England. Joe Lewandoski, Director of Auto Racing at Riverside Park, is, "...excited to have a radio show that promotes Riverside Park Speedway and short-track racing in Southern New England."

Fans will have the opportunity to participate in the show. Danko will field calls about the show's guests or other events in NASCAR racing. The show will also feature discussions about other racing divisions, including the Winston Cup Series, Busch Grand National Series, Busch North Series, Featherlite Modified Tour, and the Craftsman Truck Series.

For more information, contact Jeremy Davidson at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3341.

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The 1998 Tax Tips wall calendar for small businesses is available. Each month this full-color, illustrated calendar highlights a business tax tip. And it also contains helpful hints for small businesses as well as important daily tax reminders. For free copies, call 1-800-829-3676 and ask for Publication 1518, catalog number 1235OZ.



Some Spring Swim Programs Are Still Available At Fitness First!

There are still a few classes with openings for the March 16th Session! Hurry - Classes fill up fast! Parent participation is required for certain classes.

<u>Tiny Tots</u>	Ages 2½ - 3½ yrs.	Tues. 9:30 - 11:00 am
<u>Water Babies</u>	Ages 6 - 15 mos.	Wed. 10:15 - 11 am
<u>Tots R Cize</u>	Ages 2 - 3 yrs.	Wed. 6:45 - 7:30 pm
	<i>Gym only class!</i>	
<u>Advanced Beginner</u>	Swim Lessons	Thurs. 4:15 - 5 pm
<u>Water Babies</u>	Ages 6 - 30 mos.	Thurs. 6:15 - 7 pm
<u>Intermediate</u>	Swim Lessons	Sat. 10:30 - 11:15 am

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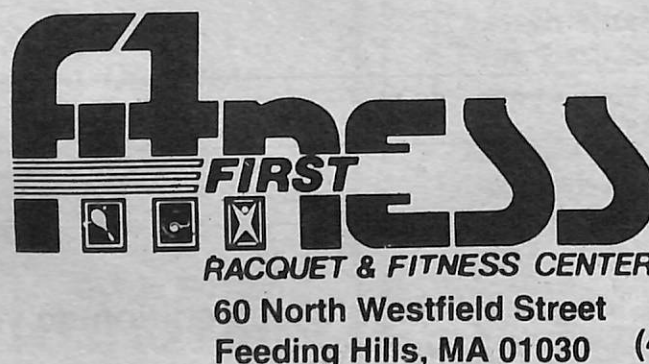
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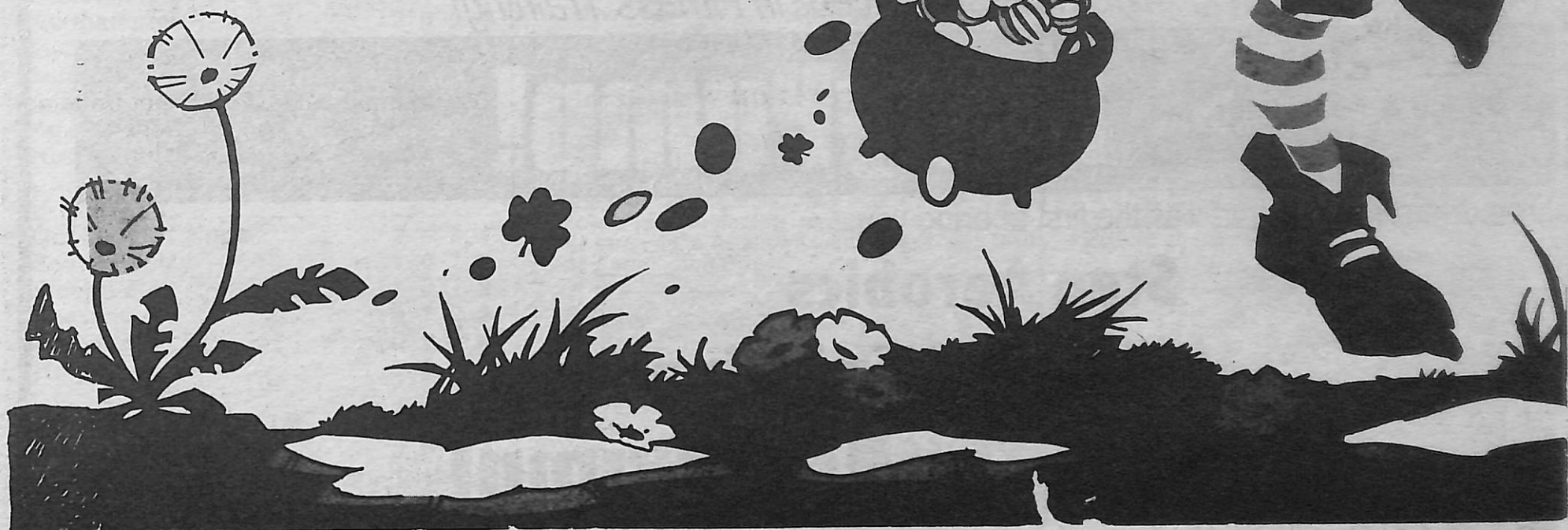
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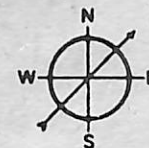
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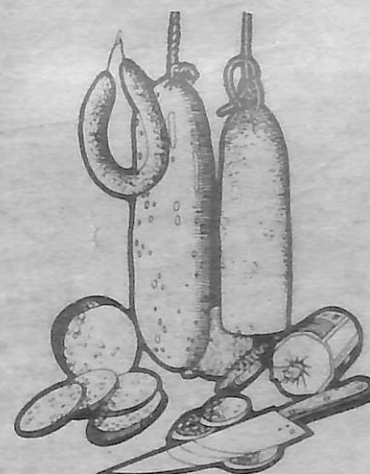
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